Illustrated Midland News.

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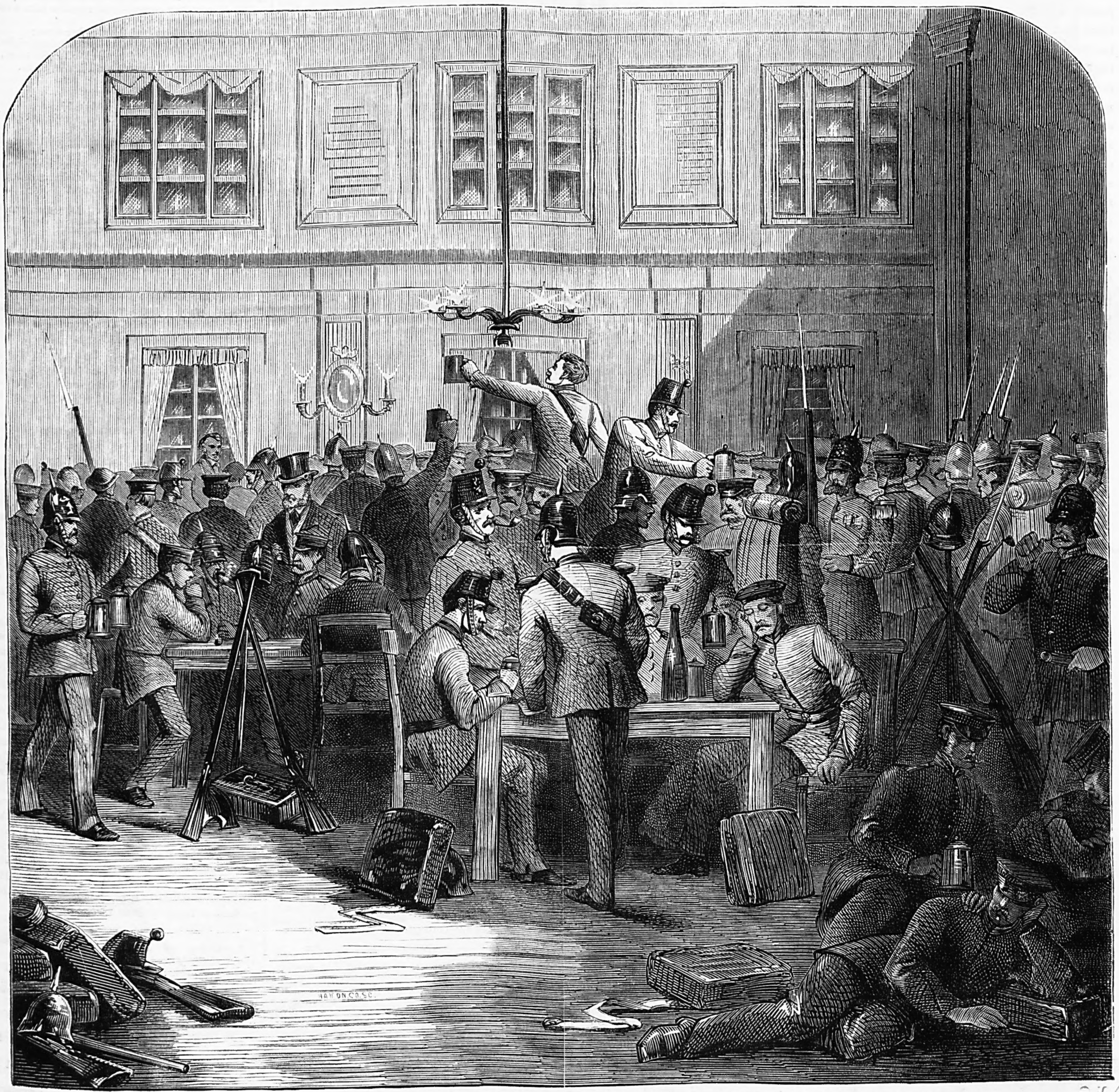
WAR NOTES UNDER DIFFICULTIES.

To be the historians of the war is a perilous occupation. There is, we believe, no premium of insurance that will cover the risk of the newspaper correspondents and artists who have gone to the borders of the Rhine. To the soldier there is one chance of honour and promotion to about ten chances of death on the battle-field. Having made his calculations, and arrived at some such pleasant conclusion as that, he may smoke his pipe of tobacco when he gets half-an-hour off duty, and content himself that he knows the worst. To the representative of the Press is given no such source of consolation. His dangers are of many sorts—indeed of almost every sort—he has no prize and no glory to win, and his death, in whatever form it may overtake him, will not be heroic. By the army, and by the inhabitants of the country whither his commission drives him, he is roughly classed with spies; but in several respects the spy has an advantage over him. The man who undertakes secret service is perhaps inspired by patriotism; his occupation is one which to



THE WAR: NIGHT-SCENE OF PRUSSIAN TROOPS STOPPING AT THE RAILWAY STATION AT HALLE.

ILLUSTRATED MIDLAND NEWS
ONE PENNY
NEWSPAPER

some minds affords the gratification of a peculiar and engrossing excitement; and if he makes a valuable discovery it may be a small fortune to him. But the correspondent, totally unable to secure contraband information for the gratification of his readers, with, most likely, no real interest in the conflict, playing for no lottery, and yet holding life and liberty at the mercy of chance, has simply a very arduous duty to perform the successful performance of which will meet with no special or exceptional reward. He can only hope that the public, whose smile of approval is the one compensation for labour and sacrifice, to men of letters of every degree, will be sensible of what he is doing and enduring for their sake, and that in the midst of their craving for more and more intelligence from the seat of war they will not be too impatient of the sparsity of the news, or unmindful of the difficulties under which the imperfect accounts and insufficient details are collected. On the page of this paper upon which this article opens, appears a picture which illustrates at once a scene in the life of Prussian soldiers in the war that is now raging and the great stumbling-blocks that lie in the way of our artists and correspondents. We were looking for a sketch from that particular locality a long time before it came, and when at last it arrived the descriptive matter which was intended to accompany it was not delivered, and it has never yet reached our hands. Other articles and sketches have been lost or delayed on the road, especially those from the Prussian quarters, and we are obliged to content ourselves in this case with the picture, which is a spirited sketch—taken surreptitiously, and under dangerous circumstances—of the interior of the railway station of Halle by night, filled with Prussian soldiers, smoking, eating, drinking, sleeping, very much "at ease," awaiting the coming of the train which is to convey them nearer to the scenes of carnage in which they are shortly to play their part. We are bound to value this picture the more highly because our artist, who has since succeeded in forwarding us safely a letter from Mannheim, which appears in this week's paper, tells us in a note that for some time to come it will be impossible for him to send us any sketches from that district, on account of the extreme jealousy with which all sketching and note-taking are regarded there. Several artists, he informs us, have got themselves into trouble and some have been severely maltreated for having been discovered in the act of putting pencil to paper. Nevertheless the story of this war will be told and illustrated sooner or later, despite the precautions of French and Prussian commanders, and we hope to perform our part as journalists in recording and in perpetuating impressions of the momentous events of the year 1870.

The Bank of Bengal has declared a dividend at the rate of 9 per cent. per annum.

The Cinghalese have resolved to raise a loan of £1, 00,000, for railway and irrigation works.

Upwards of three hundred lives and whole streets of houses have been destroyed by a flood at Indore, Northern India.

Twenty-two couples of hounds from the kennels of the Dukes of Grafton and Rutland are sent to India for the Calcutta Hunt.

Seventy-three deaths occurred in May, in the central provinces of India, from snake bites and wild beasts.

MAP OF THE SEAT OF WAR.—Purchasers of the Glenfield Starch can be supplied with an authentic map of the Seat of War, by applying to their Grocers, who, if not supplied, should apply to the manufacturers.

ADVICE TO MOTHERS.—Are you broken in your rest by a sick child suffering with the pain of cutting teeth? Go at once to a chemist, and get a bottle of Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup. It will relieve the poor sufferer immediately; it is perfectly harmless: it produces natural quiet sleep, by relieving the child from pain, and the little cherub awakes "as bright as a button." It is very pleasant to take; it soothes the child, it softens the gums, allays all pain, relieves wind, regulates the bowels, and is the best known remedy for dysentery and diarrhœa, whether arising from teething or other causes.—Sold by all medicine vendors at 1s. 1½d. per bottle. [684

HOLLOWAY'S PILLS.—The extraordinary range of temperature prevailing in our climate is extremely trying to the delicate-chested, the weak and nervous. All troubled by these afflictions should resolve to resort to this strengthening and regulating medicine immediately they perceive in themselves discomfort or that feeling of restlessness which betokens disordered digestion and defective secretion of bile. One of Holloway's Pills taken about noon and followed at bed-time by a dose sufficiently large to act aperiently will speedily recruit the faulty functions, and restore order throughout the whole system. A treatment so safe in operation and so successful in result should be known and practised when, from cold and sundry other causes, disease is attempting to gain a vexatious footing [583

THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW IN CALTHORPE PARK.

On page 121 appears a large picture of the Annual Inspection of the First Battalion of Warwickshire Rifle Volunteers, which took place in Calthorpe Park on the afternoon of Saturday, the 30th ult. The scene selected for illustration by our artist is that of the General Salute, before the commencement of the evolutions of the day. The central figure on horseback is that of the Commandant, Lieut.-Colonel Ratcliff. The Inspecting officer, Lieut.-Colonel Roche, the foremost of the group of mounted officers on the left, was accompanied by Lord Leigh (the Lord Lieutenant of the County), and surrounded by the staff, consisting of Lieut.-Colonel Bagnall, Lieut.-Colonel Smythe, Lieut.-Colonel Machen, Surgeon Major Manifold, Captain Boulton Leigh, Captain Bullen, Captain Burke, Captain Creighton, Major Chattock, Captain H. Williams, Lieut. Adderley, and Ensign Izon, who acted as aide-de-camp to the Inspecting Officer. The officers of the battalion present were Lieut.-Colonel Ratcliff, Major Tarte (Adjutant of the battalion), Major Richards, Major Hebbert, Surgeon-Major Yates, Assistant-Surgeons Thompson and Mann, Captain Bullock, Captain Williams, and the Rev. Dr. Wilkinson, of St. Martin's, Chaplain to the battalion. The battalion, which met at half-past two, o'clock at Bingley Hall, and marched to the Park, under the command of Lieut.-Colonel Ratcliff, mustered in strong force. The following is the field-statement:—No. 1, 56, Capt. Gem, Lieut. Chamberlain, Ensign Lea; No. 2, 54, Capt. Briggs, Lieut. Cox, Ensign Nossiter; No. 3, 87, Capt. Chesshire, Lieut. Adkins; No. 4, 54, Capt. Wrightson, Lieut. Ratcliff; No. 5, 54, Capt. Walford, Lieut. Moadely; No. 6, 54, Capt. Thornton, Lieut. Goodman; No. 7, 84, Capt. Mole, Lieut. Mole, Ensign Izon; No. 8, 56, Capt. Deykin; No. 9, 66, Capt. Salt, Lieut. Salt, Ensign Campbell; No. 10, 54, Capt. Brown; No. 11, 54, Capt. Burt; No. 12, 58, Lieut. Harrison. The total number of all ranks on the ground was 860, leaving only 197 out of the whole strength of the battalion to be accounted for. After the general salute, depicted in our engraving, the general inspection commenced immediately, under the command of Colonel Ratcliff, forming into open column, right in front, and marching past in quarter-distance column. The column then wheeled into line, and went through the manual, platoon, and bayonet exercises under command of Major Richards and Major Hebbert. After having put the battalion very minutely through the details of the drill, the inspecting officer and Colonel Ratcliff dismounted, and made an inspection of the arms and accoutrements. This was followed by a series of field movements, in the course of which the battalion advanced and retired by sub-divisions from both flanks in the rear of the centre. Line was then formed to the right, and three volleys were fired by companies from right to left. In the first round the firing of Nos. 2, 3, and 4 was particularly good, and in the second three rounds the firing of Nos. 6, 7, and 8 was noticeable for its precision. After two volleys had been fired by wings the battalion advanced in direct *echelon* of companies in wheeling distance from the right; and the alarm having been sounded company squares were formed, from which desultory and independent firing was kept up for some time against an imaginary force of cavalry. Companies were next re-formed, and a change of front on the centre company having been executed, the whole battalion fired two volleys in capital style. The whole line then advanced, and retired by fours from the right of companies. After some further movements, the manœuvres of the day concluded by the whole battalion taking a turn at skirmishing, and finally re-forming line and advancing in review order.

Lieutenant-Colonel Roche, at the conclusion of the movements, addressed Colonel Ratcliff and the battalion. He said that they had now been about three hours and a half at drill, and he would say that he had never seen a regiment kept so long a time at work without showing some restlessness and unsteadiness. He had watched them very closely, and it delighted him very much to notice that they were all perfectly steady, and that perfect silence had been kept in the ranks. As a battalion, he would say for them that he had seen very few to come up to them in appearance and in the manner in which their uniforms and accoutrements were kept; but must tell them that some of their arms were kept hardly so nice as he could wish. He had distinct and express orders to report upon the state of the arms exactly as he found them; and he must say that the arms of three or four of the companies were not in the good order in which they ought to have been, but he hoped that at the next inspection they would appear better. There was this great excuse, they had been in their possession many years. With however, that the arms were now old, having been regard to the movements generally, he would say that he thought they might fairly go into brigade with any regiment that had been in brigade before. Addressing Colonel Ratcliff, the gallant Colonel said that there were some of the movements that had been gone through that day that would soon have to be done no longer. The new drill book would shortly be out, but he did not anticipate that they would find very much difficulty in getting into the new movements. He was certain that had he the pleasure of seeing them again he would be perfectly satisfied with the manner in which these new movements would be performed. The battalion is exceedingly efficient, considering the many difficulties volunteers have to contend with in attending drill. The officers generally carried out your orders most promptly; the men moved steadily and silently; and I must add that you put the battalion through the movements in a highly creditable manner. The Colonel then proceeded to say that he should have much pleasure in reporting favourably, because he considered them an excellent battalion, and that they had shown a spirit and an example which ought to be followed more and more in Birmingham. (Cheers.) He did not think that they were second to any regiment in the country but one, and that was the Robin Hood regiment, which it was well known was scarcely second to any regiment of the line in point of efficiency. (Applause.) He believed that Sir Edward Campbell had praised them very highly; and he was very happy to be able to say before the Lord-Lieutenant that he would be able to give them the same praise and report very favourably of them. (Cheers.)

Lord Leigh congratulated the battalion on the very high compliment that had been paid them by the very distinguished officer who had just addressed them; and he congratulated himself and the whole county of Warwick on having, as their inspecting officer of the Reserve Forces, Colonel Roche. He thought that it was very creditable to the present War Minister, that inspecting officers of the Reserve Forces, the Militia, Yeomanry, and Volunteers, were scattered through various districts of the country; and he hoped that that movement would be followed by another, namely, that all the forces he had mentioned would be brigaded together—(cheers). He congratulated them most sincerely upon the high compliment paid them by Colonel Roche. Though he would not himself venture to express any individual opinion, he might say this much, that he had never seen them more steady than they were that day, and he thought that Colonel Roche only did them justice when he said it did them very great credit. His lordship concluded by paying a high compliment to the late Adjutant, Captain McInnis, and congratulated the battalion that a worthy successor had been appointed to that gentleman in the person of Major Tarte.

Colonel Roche, referring to Major Tarte, said that from what he knew of him he was the right man in the right place, and he counselled the members of the battalion not to mind, though the Adjutant occasionally lost his temper in his anxiety to have them efficient.

Lieut.-Colonel Ratcliff thanked Colonel Roche for the good opinion that he had expressed of the conduct of the battalion and of their high state of efficiency. That opinion would be a very great encouragement. They had been told that only one other battalion in the kingdom surpassed them and therefore, when they left that field, they would go forward with the greatest assurance that what they had done would only be an earnest of what they hoped to do against the time of their next inspection. It would be their pride to endeavour to obtain the higher position, and on the next inspection he hoped they might hear from Colonel Roche that the 1st Warwickshire was the best battalion in the kingdom. To make themselves thoroughly efficient was their earnest desire, and as soon as the new drill book was placed in their hands no time would be lost in making themselves masters of the new movements. He was proud to state that the officers and men under his command were zealous in their duties and most efficient, and that the good feeling which existed among them was the assurance of their future united efforts. He thanked the inspecting officer for telling them so plainly of those various alterations which required attention; but it was gratifying to know that they had done so much that day that had met with his approval. It would be to every member of the battalion a matter of very great pleasure to know that so distinguished an officer had expressed so high an opinion of their efficiency; and he felt sure that there was not a single man among them but would be ready to sacrifice his life if the necessity arose for that devotion which every one in this battalion felt towards his Queen, his country, and his home. In conclusion, Colonel Ratcliff thanked Lord Leigh for his kind expressions, and for being present at their annual inspection.

The battalion then left the ground, and, marching to Bingley Hall, the members were there dismissed, after a few congratulatory remarks from the Colonel. The number of spectators present was very large, especially towards the close of the proceedings. The ground was kept by a party of the 5th Dragoon Guards and a number of the borough police.

The Place of Refuge, during this hot weather, STEELE'S HAIRCUTTING SALOONS. The Largest and Coolest in the three Kingdoms. Extra Assistants to meet the large demands for Shampooing with eggs, &c. Streams of warm, tepid, and cold water—a delightful operation—a necessity and a luxury. Moderate charges. The largest and best 6d. and 1s. bottle of Pomade in the trade; has had an immense sale for eighteen years. Choice Hair Washes, from 1s. 6d. Lime Cream, from 1s. Genuine and delightfully perfumed Lime Juice and Glycerine, from 1s. to 6s. A very large assortment of Hair, Tooth, Nail, Hat, and Cloth Brushes, by best makers, from 1s. Dressing Combs in *Tortoiseshell*, *Bone*, *Ivory*, *Horn*, and *Vulcanite*, from 6d. A splendid variety of fancy Back Combs, from 1s. to 50s. Large selection of Fans from 6d. to 60s., including the newest shapes and patterns. The largest stock of Toilet Requisites and Fancy Goods in the Midland Counties, selected from the best houses of Paris and London, at STEELE'S, HAIR CUTTER and ARTIST in HAIR, Opposite the Railway Station, New Street, Birmingham. [591

GENTLEMEN, desirous of having their Linens dressed to perfection, should supply their Laundresses with the "GLENFIELD STARCH," which imparts a brilliancy and elasticity gratifying alike to the senses of sight and touch. [710

PAST AND PRESENT.

A SENTIMENTAL ECLOGUE.

I.

Alas, for the pleasant Arcadian times,
When, in bowers of clematis or fields of fresh clover,
Or under the covert of murmurous limes,
In sunniest, shadiest, jolliest climes,
They told their old stories and strung their quaint rhymes:
The shepherdess fair and her lover.

II.

Those jolly old times! when one had but to look
Picturesque, and to dress like a modern stage bandit,
And to lean in one's handsomest *pose* on a crook,
Or play on Pan pipes by the side of a brook—
Ah! it's all very pretty to read in a book,
But these work-a-day times wouldn't stand it.

III.

Fancy Tomkins, my poor but poetical clerk,
Proposing to one of his Edgbaston graces.
And spouting—"'Tis pleasant, 'tis pleasant to hark
To the first burst of song from the high-souring lark,
Or to wander, when twilight is dying to dark,
In starlit Arcadian places."

IV.

Could *she* dream of a husband who yet has to start
In the reckless and terrible race to be wealthy?
She cares not for Cupid, his bow, and his dart;
She prefers a tall footman in uniform smart,
And thinks very little of Tomkins's heart,
For the state of his purse isn't healthy.

V.

Young sentiment falters his last sad good-byes,
Old Money-bag comes,—she receives him with rapture,
She gazes upon him with love in her eyes;
Her heart—or her art—culls up tremulous sighs;
He proposes,—she snatches the gilded old prize,
And drives off to church with her capture.

VI.

Alas, for the happy Arcadian days!
When withered old wealth was rejected with laughter.
And handsome young love, down the glad summer ways,
Went whispering softly, in prayer or in praise,
To sweet-blooming Phyllis, while fairies and fays
In frolicsome blessing came after.

D. CHRISTIE.

THE PRUSSIAN COMMANDERS.

The Crown Prince of Prussia, his cousin Prince Frederick Charles, and a large group of Commanders in the armies of Germany appear mounted and in full regimental costumes in the engraving upon our 121st page. Every figure, we may say, is a good portrait. The officer taking the most advanced place in the foreground is Prince Frederick Charles, Commander in Chief of the Second Army. Frederick William III., the last king but one of Prussia, had three sons—Frederick William, William, and Charles; the eldest was the late Frederick William IV.; the second was the present King William I.; the third was Charles, married to the Princess Mary of Saxe-Weimar. The Prince Frederick Charles in our picture is the eldest son of Prince Charles and Princess Mary of Saxe-Weimar. The gallant Prince is three years older than his cousin the heir to the throne of Prussia. He was born in 1828, and is married to the Princess Mary of Anhalt. On his right hand in our engraving is the Crown Prince himself, Commander in Chief of the Third Army. Of him, having so greatly distinguished himself in this war, we have given also in this paper (page 116) a much larger portrait, and an accompanying notice. The other portraits are those of Generals Vogel Von Falckenstein, Von Bonin, Prince August Von Wurtemburg, Von Schack, Von Mutius, Von Steinmetz, (Commander in Chief of the First Army), Von der Mülbe, Von Beyer, and Herwarth Von Bittenfeld. They are all fine men and experienced officers, and two or three of them have already increased their reputation and done their country signal service in this war. Of the two great Commanders, General Moltke, to whom is entrusted the planning of the campaign, and General Von Roon, we are preparing large, half-length portraits corresponding with that of Prince Frederick William on page 116. We have also nearly ready for publication a fine portrait of King William I.

A man has been bitten to death by his horse, near Waterford.

Mr. J. C. Marshman's excellent "History of India" is to be translated into French.

A statue of Sir James Outram is to be placed on the Thames Embankment, north.

The experiment of sowing Carolina rice in British Burmah has proved a failure.

News has been received at Cairo from Sir Samuel Baker. On the 13th he was at Tewfikeyel.

The British Medical Association will hold its next annual meeting at Plymouth.

M. Adolphus Lange, who took a prominent part in the inauguration of the Suez Canal, has been knighted.

The clergy of "Archbishop" Manning's diocese have presented him with an address, endorsing the dogma of infallibility.

AT HOME AND ABROAD.

Mazzini has been placed under arrest, at the order of the Italian Government.

Prince de la Tour d'Auvergne has accepted the portfolio of Foreign Affairs at Paris.

A Paris priest has been carried off to a police station because he protested too loudly against the evacuation of Rome by the French troops.

Her Majesty the Queen has subscribed £500 to the Fund for the Relief of the Sick and Wounded in the War.

The practical examination of candidates for the Whitworth Scholarships will take place at Manchester on the 30th of August and 1st of September.

The Wesleyan Conference, after sitting three weeks at Burslem, was brought to a close on the evening of the 10th inst. One of its latest acts was to order the preparation of a synopsis of the Government Elementary Education Act, just passed, copies of which, when completed, will be forwarded to every section of the Wesleyan body in the kingdom. The next Conference is to be held af Manchester.

Stonewall Jackson.—Shortly after the death of the great Virginian general, Stonewall Jackson, the English admirers of that hero formed a committee, of which Mr. Beresford Hope, M.P., was treasurer, and Mr. W. H. Gregory, M.P., was secretary. Their object was to erect a bronze statue of General Jackson in some public place within the state of Virginia. Subscriptions flowed in freely, and the work was entrusted to Mr. Foley, R.A. The ill-health of the artist delayed the work for some time, but we are now informed that the effigy will shortly be ready for casting, and that it promises to be a work of art worthy alike of the artist and of the subject. The subscriptions already received will, we understand, be sufficient to cover all expenses.

The British Hospital for Diseases of the Skin.—This institution, which for many years has maintained a crowded out-patient department at No. 56, Great Marlborough-street, Regent-street, and more recently another of equal extent at No. 13a, Finsbury-square, has lately been anonymously presented with a £1,000 Bank of England note. The committee of management have devoted this addition to their resources to the purchase of the lease of their premises in Great Marlborough-street, and to the establishment of an in-patient department, which is much needed for the proper treatment of the severer cases of disease that are daily applying for relief. But the sum so generously placed at their disposal, large as it is, falls far below what is necessary for the maintenance of the in-patients whom they will shortly be ready to receive. They hope, however, by the aid of further contributions, to be enabled to utilize in the manner proposed the munificent gift that has been entrusted to them. For those who may desire to aid so meritorious a work we may state that contributions of one shilling and upwards in stamps, or by post-office order or cheques, forwarded to Mr. Alexander Rivington, the hon. sec., at No. 56, Great Marlborough-street, will be thankfully acknowledged by him.

Fatal Accident on Mont Blanc.—Particulars have arrived of the late fatal accident on Mont Blanc, briefly announced last week. The party, it appears, consisted of Mr. Marke, of Woodhill, Liskeard; Mrs. Marke, his wife; a young lady, her friend; and three guides. They left Chamouni on Monday, the 1st, about midday, with two guides, and arrived without accident at the Hotel de Grands Mulets at eight p.m. The route was remarkably easy and free from dangers, and the weather was splendid. Here they slept, and at 3.30 the next morning, having added to their party the third guide, they started on their upward journey. After having safely traversed the Great and Little Plateau, they gained the summit of Le Corridor, about ten a.m. At this spot, as there was a considerable breeze, the ladies with one of the guides halted, while Mr. Marke, with the two other guides, went up higher, to see if the weather would permit them to continue their ascent. They promised to return in ten or fifteen minutes. The ladies beginning to feel the cold, their guide, contrary to the injunctions of Mr. Marke and the express orders of his fellow guides, started off with them on their descent. They were all three connected by a rope, Mrs. Marke, unfortunately, at the same time also leaning on the arm of the guide, her friends following a few steps behind. Scarcely had they gone 100 yards when Mrs. Marke and the guide suddenly disappeared into a crevasse, which was covered with a thin crest of frozen snow. Providentially for her friend the rope, being rotten, broke, and she remained, half dead with fear, but in safety, close to the upper edge of the chasm. Mr. Marke and the two guides, hearing cries of distress, rushed down in all haste, and in less than five minutes had reached as near as they could with safety the edge of the crevasse. They looked down and shouted as loud as they could. The silence of the grave was their only answer; instantaneous, but without doubt painless, death had overtaken their companions. Nothing remained now for the survivors but to hurry back to the Grands Mulets and send down to Chamouni for assistance as quickly as possible. In a very short time a party of porters and guides, with everything requisite for the search after the remains of the ill-fated travellers, arrived at the scene of the disaster. The search continued when the weather permitted during the remainder of the week. No pains and no labour were spared; a large reward was offered, but owing to the situation and formation of the crevasse, all their efforts proved unsuccessful. A funeral service was held in the English chapel at Chamouni on Tuesday, the 9th inst., at which a touching address was delivered by the Rev. M. Neligan, the chaplain. There was a crowded congregation, and all the guides of the neighbourhood attended. Mrs. Marke had only been married two months; she was the eldest daughter of the Rev. R. C. Maul, rector of Rickinghall, in the county of Suffolk. The names of the two surviving guides are Franz Bourgener and Jean Pierre Zimbougen, natives of Valais, and that of the poor young fellow who lost his life, and who had joined the party at the Grands Mulets, Gay Crozier Ozyme, aged 23, a Savoyard. Mr. Marke and the young lady alluded to arrived in England on Friday last.

The inauguration of the grouse season on Friday was very successful. Birds were plentiful on all the principal moors.

The great Derry anniversary on Friday resulted, as was feared, in a riot. The rival parties were in collision, and the military and police had to charge them repeatedly. One man is reported to have been killed, and many were injured.

The French Embassy.—The Marquis de Lavalette is left with only the Secretary of Embassy to assist him. The second secretaries and attachés all quit London to join the *levée en masse*, which is calling every Frenchman of fighting capacity to arms.

Mr. Odo William Russell, who for some years has been employed on special service at Rome, and who has returned home from Italy, has accepted the post of Assistant Under Secretary of the Foreign Office in the place of the late Hon. Charles Spring Rice.

The *Church Herald* states that the Bishopric of Edinburgh, about to become vacant by the resignation of Dr. Terrot, has been offered to Bishop Cotterell, of Graham's Town, and that he is likely to accept it. Dr. Cotterell was senior wrangler at Cambridge in 1835.

Adjudication of bankruptcy was on Friday made against Mr. E. C. Grenville Murray, whose name will be remembered in connection with the proceedings which he last year took against Lord Carington for assault. The petitioning creditor is the printer of the weekly paper lately edited by Mr. Murray.

The Attorney General, Sir R. Collier, by accepting the Recordership of Bristol, vacated his seat for Plymouth, and was re-elected by his constituents on Monday without opposition. The learned gentleman, however, has not, after all, retained the recordership, some of his constituents having raised objections against his so doing.

International Exhibition of 1871.—We are requested by her Majesty's Commissioners to state that there is no foundation for the rumour that the International Exhibition appointed for 1871 is to be postponed by reason of the war. The first of the series of Annual International Exhibitions of Selected Works of Fine and Industrial Art and Scientific Inventions will take place next year as already announced.

The Royal Insurance Company.—The *Railway News* thus comments upon and summarises the recent report of this gigantic insurance company:—"The shareholders as well as the policy-holders of the Royal must be gratified with the announcement just made of the results of the operations for the past year. With one exception the net profit of the fire department has been larger than in any previous year. It has amounted to the large sum of £78,154, the premiums paid having been not less than £485,180, or little short of half a million of money; while the losses incurred have been only £290,685; the premiums being in excess of any previously received, and the losses being considerably less than those paid during the preceding twelvemonths. The business in the life department has afforded equally good grounds for satisfaction. The total income from premiums now amounts to £213,420, of which not less than £19,003 has been contributed by the policies completed during the past year. The company have received from its investments £46,162, the claims paid have been £104,383. The new annuities, endowments, purchase money, and premiums have amounted to £16,827, and the interest placed to the credit of these accounts has been £7,185. The result is that after payment of all claims, annuities, and expenses of every description, the amount added to the life fund has been £133,069, and for the year's work done the shareholders have received in dividend and bonus a sum of 10s. per share. As we have on more than one occasion pointed out, the safety of offices of this kind is not to be tested solely by the amount of business done, but rather by the quality of the business, the amount of capital paid up or liable to be called the amount of the reserve, and the nature of the investments in which it is placed. Upon each of these points the Royal appears to be established upon a sound and solid basis. The capital paid up is £289,095, the reserve fund is £286,925, and the life assurance funds are £1,173,401. Whatever other companies may have to say in opposition to the new Assurance Bill, certainly the Royal will have no occasion to fear any scrutiny which the new forms of publishing the accounts may make as to the position of its affairs. At the time of the failure of the Albert, and when serious rumours were circulated as to the stability of some other offices, the directors of the Royal promptly and judiciously ordered a full and complete inquiry into the position of the company, and the result of the rigid investigation then made by one of the ablest of our actuaries was such as to create a feeling of perfect confidence in the stability of the office, and the good opinion thus created has been shown in the increased number and amounts of the new policies effected with the company. While the public are thus reassured as to the soundness of property, the shareholders will not, we are confident, complain that a portion of the funds which would otherwise have been available for augmenting the dividend has been carried to reserve. This sum so applied amounts to £112,000, and it now brings up the reserve to £286,925. This policy of providing a reserve sufficient to meet all possible contingencies is a wise and prudent one, and should receive the support of the shareholders, while at the same time it tends to give increased confidence to the assured.

There is a great yield of Indigo in India this year.

Rosseter's Hair Restorer is the only preparation which can be confidently relied upon for restoring grey hair to its original colour. It assists nature in supplying the colouring properties which may have become deficient through age or disease. Price 3s. 6d. per bottle. [628

Pure Water.—Alfred Bird, Experimental Chemist, begs to announce that he has perfected his new Carbon Filter, price 7s. 6d. each, which he guarantees shall deliver 60 gallons of the purest water daily.—To be seen in action at 69, Worcester Street, Birmingham. [930

Luxuriant and Beautiful Hair.—A guarantee goes with every bottle of Mrs. S. A. Allen's World's Hair Restorer, that it will quickly restore grey or faded hair to its original youthful colour and beauty. It stops the hair from falling off. It prevents baldness. It promotes luxuriant growth. No other preparation will produce the same beneficial results. Only in large bottles, 6s. Sold by Chemists and Perfumers. Depot, 266, High Holborn, London. Also Mrs. Allen's Zylobalsamum (a Separate Preparation), the best hairdressing known—makes the hair soft and glossy, and retains it in any desired position. [618

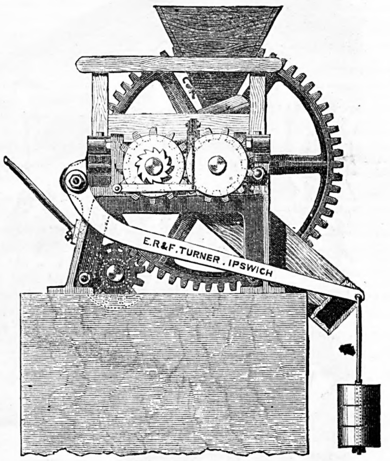
THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY AT OXFORD.

[Sixth Notice.]

An Agricultural Show is a comprehensive affair. It embraces so wide a range of objects that it is not easy for the Council of the Agricultural Society to draw a line and say what shall be admitted upon their Show-ground and what excluded. Hence a very wide latitude is allowed to exhibitors, and almost the only distinction made is that of awarding the prizes for excellence and for successful novelties in the departments of the exhibition which are strictly agricultural, and of refusing to put the Society's seal of recognition upon any article that does not directly or indirectly affect the interest of the producer and that of the consumer of agricultural produce. The engravings which we present in illustration of our sixth notice of the Royal Show at Oxford are examples of machinery of indirect and at the same time highly important application to the processes of farming. They are mills for grinding and crushing coprolites, and though the farmer is not expected to grind and crush his own coprolites in the present state of the art of manufacturing artificial manure, and is not, therefore, expected to be a purchaser of either of these mills, the Council of the Society, taking a wide view of their duty, have not hesitated to award handsome prizes to the two machines which we shall presently describe.

The conversion of coprolites into powder is quite a modern business. It is one of the very practical results of very theoretic science. In certain geological strata in Cambridgeshire, and upon the sea shore at Felixstow and other parts of the Suffolk coast, some years ago, certain singular shaped stones, about the size of schoolboys' marbles, irregular in shape, and not so smooth nor quite so hard as pebbles, were picked up by the curious, and fell into the hands of the philosophers. The late Professor Henslow, we believe, was the first to decide that these were not real stones, but fossils, the remains of reptiles which wandered on the silent shores of the world millions of years ago, before man or four-footed beasts inhabited this planet. And it was Professor Henslow who demonstrated that, if these fossils were ground to powder and dissolved by a chemical process, certain elements would be evolved which would be a powerful agency in stimulating the fertility of the soil. To put the matter briefly: the natural manure, wasted in the pre-Adamite ages, as it is wasted even in our own day, has been preserved by the action of the waters of the ocean, and is returned to us at last in a form which needs the latest applications of science to restore it to the the condition in which alone it is valuable. Coprolites have since been found in many other localities besides Cambridge and Suffolk—we have recently heard of the discovery of a vein of it in Oxfordshire—and it is one of the most important agents in the manufacture of what is called artificial manure. There are many manufactories in which caprolites are thus operated upon, and some of them are on a very extensive scale. The process is complex, highly scientific, and very interesting, and we hope to make arrangements by-and-bye to give a pictorial and descriptive account of the works of one of the largest and most successful manufacturers in the country.

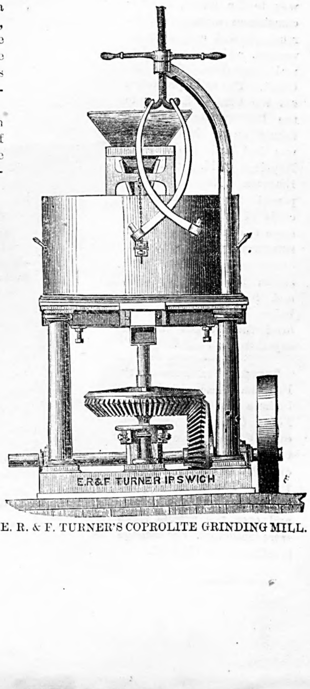
Messrs. E. R. and F. Turner, St. Peter's Iron Works, Ipswich, who were large exhibitors of agricultural implements at the Oxford Show, are not artificial manure makers, but they are manufacturers of the machines by which the antediluvian fossils of which we have been speaking are crushed and ground into powder, preparatory to their solution and reconversion into fertilising agents. It is therefore to artificial manure makers, and not to farmers, that these mills have a professional interest. Messrs. Turners' Roller Crushing Mill for breaking down coprolites and other phoshates, and their Mill for grinding coprolites and other phosphates took the Society's prize of £10 at Oxford, and these were the only coprolite machines on the ground to which any prize was awarded. It is easy for the reader, however uninitiated in the mysteries of complex mechanical agency, to understand that a mill to grind stones, without breaking itself to pieces or quickly wearing itself up, is a machine rather difficult to contrive. To convert coprolites to powder requires two machines. The first process is to reduce the fossil to such a consistency as to admit of its being fed with regularity to the grinding stones. This is sometimes effected by a heavy and costly pair of mill stones devoted solely to the purpose, but the simple crushing mill represented in the annexed sketch effects the same object as expeditiously and with considerably less power. This mill consists of a pair of chilled cast-iron rollers, by means of which the coprolites (or other phosphates) are reduced to a suitable size for grinding by the stones. It may be fed with material about the size of "road metal." It is usually worked in conjuction with the grinding stones, and is then driven from the same lay shaft to which the pinion with disengaging clutch is attached, as shown in the engraving. The method of driving may, however, be made suitable for any required position. Pressure is applied to the rollers by means of weighted levers, which may be varied according to the nature of the substance under operation. The gearing and framework of the mill are of the most substantial character. The material delivered from this mill is ready to be passed through the coprolite grinding mill represented by the second engraving.



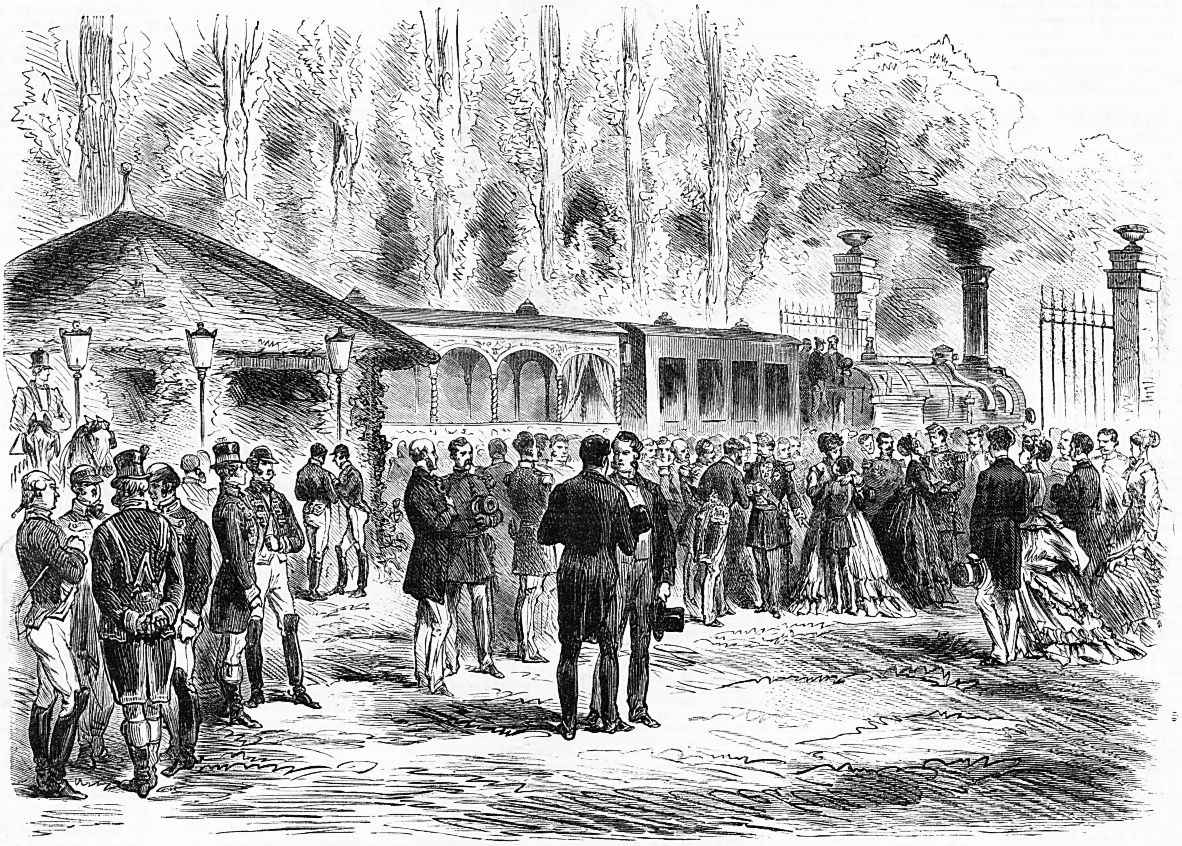
E. R. & F. TURNER'S ROLLER CRUSHING COPROLITE MILL

This mill is mounted on a substantial pedestal, which carries the lay shaft bearings. The bed stones are firmly secured in cast-iron coned pans, fitted with the necessary adjustment screws. The stones are built of the best French "burrs," especially selected for the purpose, and are four feet six inches in diameter. Each will require about 6-horse nominal engine power, and will reduce about half a ton per hour to a fine powder from the state in which the materinl is delivered from the crushing mill previously described. Any number of these mills, up to six, may be placed side by side, and driven by the same lay shaft. Messrs. Turner had a large stand at Oxford, and exhibited numerous mills for steam and horse power, for grinding grain, linseed, oilcake, &c.; also steam engines, gear work, screw-lifting jack, shafting, pulleys, &c. They took prizes amounting altogether to upwards of £35 for (in addition to those we have described) horse-power and hand-power linseed-crushing mills, corn-grinding mills, oil-cake breakers, and horse-gear machinery.

Further illustrations are in preparation for the continuation of these notices.



E. R. & F. TURNER'S COPROLITE GRINDING MILL.

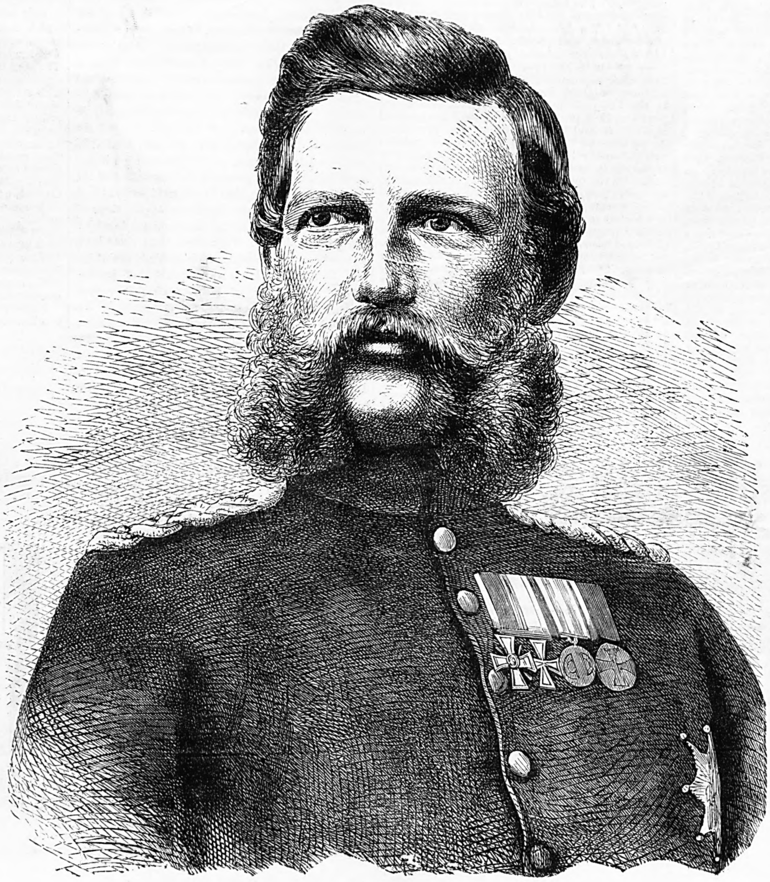


THE WAR: DEPARTURE OF NAPOLEON III. AND THE PRINCE IMPERIAL FOR THE RHINE.

DEPARTURE OF THE EMPEROR AND PRINCE.

The scene depicted above is at the private Imperial Railway Station in the park of St. Cloud. The train is ready to start. The Empress Eugenie kisses the little boy-Prince, who is going away to the ceremony of the "baptism of fire." The Imperial father is commending the Empress to the care of the officers and statesmen whom he leaves at home. It was expected that the Emperor would present himself before his subjects at Paris on his way to the Rhine, but circumstances occurred which rendered that course inconvenient, and hence the formal departure from St. Cloud. The train proceeded *viâ* the Central Railway to the Eastern Railway, and thence on to Metz. This was but three weeks since. Napoleon III. and the Empress Eugenie have passed through many a crisis of trial and anxiety since the Imperial marriage seventeen years ago, but events so serious for themselves, for their dynasty, and for France have not before been crowded into a brief three weeks of their experience.

Severe Hailstorm in France.—A severe hailstorm broke a few days back over Fèves (Moselle), and produced the most serious injury to the vines. The yield is expected to be reduced two-thirds. The water invaded the village and the cellars, and even the ground floors were inundated. The damage is estimated at 100,000f.



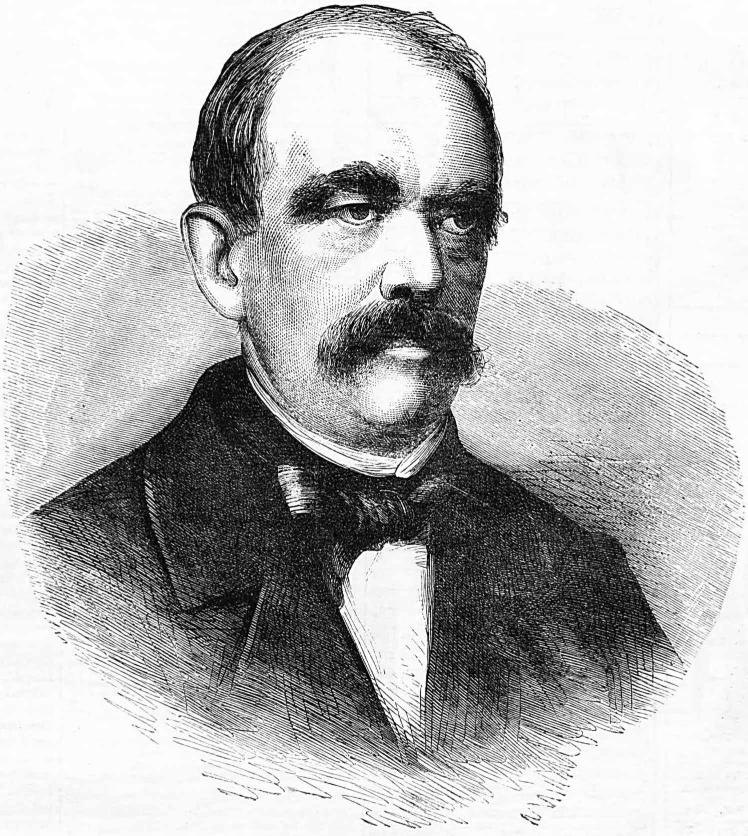
THE CROWN PRINCE OF PRUSSIA. *(See page 125.)*

Brewing and Beer Selling Statistics.—A parliamentary paper just published shows that in England there are 2,298 brewers and 69,369 licensed victuallers, of whom 92 and 5,950 are in London. The number of beershops is, in London, 3,927; in the country, 45,203; besides which 183 persons in London and 3,271 in the country are licensed for the sale of beer "not to be drunk on the premises." The number of licensed victuallers who brew their own beer is, in London, 13; in the country, 18,889. The brewers consume 32,636,328 bushels of malt, the victuallers 7,219,107 bushels, and the beersellers who brew their own beer 3,607,380. The quantity of malt consumed in Scotland is 2,133,369 bushels, and in Ireland 3,900,979 bushels.

Munificence. — Thomas Rochester, Esq., of Whalton, near Morpeth, has instructed his bankers (Messrs. Hodgkin, Barnett, and Co.) to pay over the munificent donation of £12,000 to the following local and other national institutions:—Morpeth Dispensary, £1,000; Newcastle Dispensary, £1,000; Deaf and Dumb Asylum, Newcastle, £1,000; Hospital for Sick Children, Newcastle, £1,000; Blind Asylum, Newcastle, £1,000; Ragged and Industrial Schools, Newcastle, £1,000; National Lifeboat Institution, £1,000; Church Missionary Society, £1,000; British and Foreign Bible Society, £1000; Girls' Jubilee School, Newcastle, £600; Home Mission, Newcastle, £600; Sailors' Home, North Shields, £600; Wellesley Training Ship, £600; and the Tract Society, £600.

THE COUNT VON BISMARCK-SHONHAUSEN.

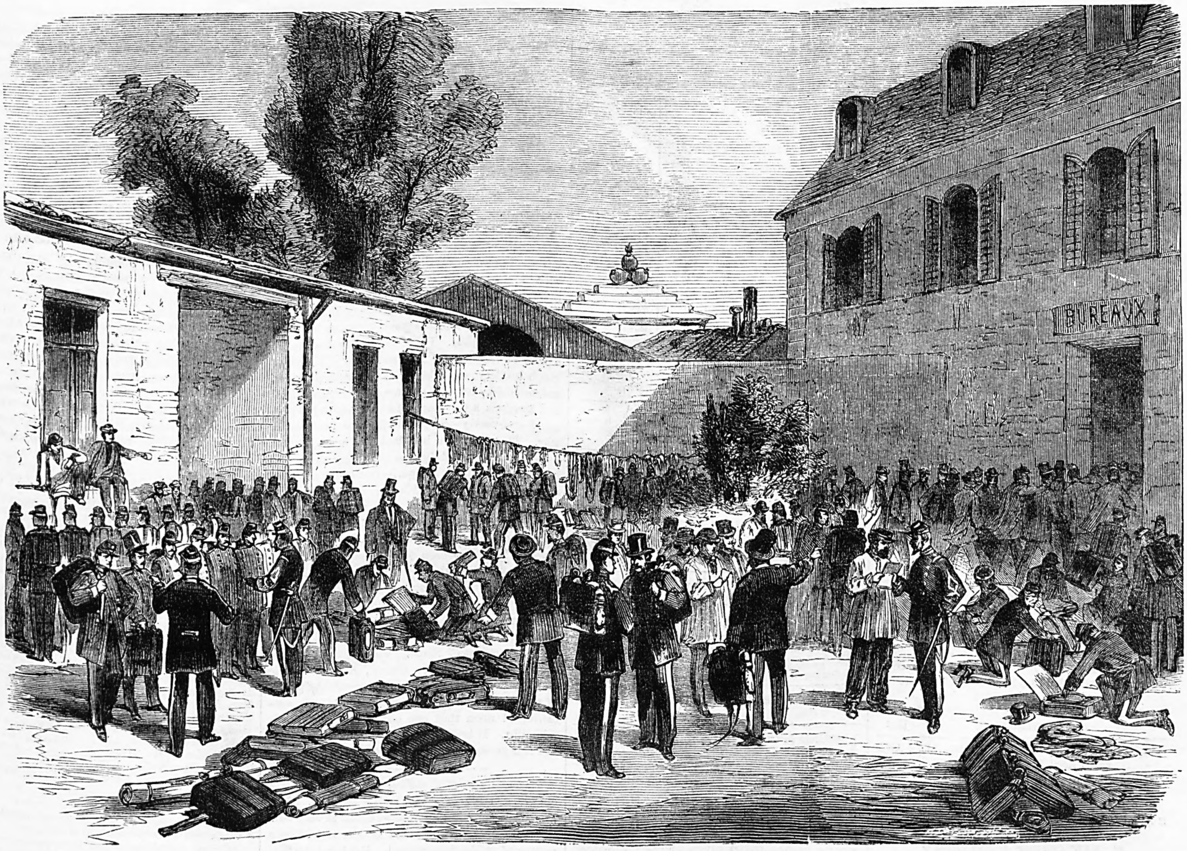
The accompanying picture is a very faithful portrait of this great master of diplomacy, whose life has had so powerful an influence upon Continental affairs for the last twenty years. Karl Otto, Count Von Bismark-Shönhausen, Minister-President of Prussia, and Chancellor of the North German Confederation, was born at Shönhausen on the 1st of April, 1814. He was educated for the law, and afterwards became an officer in the Civil Service, and a Lieutenant of the Landwehr. In 1846 he was elected a member of the Province of Saxony, and he soon after took a prominent position in public affairs as a daring and unflinching advocate of the most extreme Conservative views. In 1851 he was appointed Secretary to the Prussian Legation at the Assembly of the Germanic Confederation at Frankfort, where he afterwards attended as a Deputy, and he subsequently represented the Court of Berlin at Vienna, St. Petersburg, and Paris. In Russia he was decorated with the Order of St. Alexander Newski, and in France with the Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour, by the sovereigns of those empires. He was made Minister of Foreign Affairs in 1862, and in the same year, in the name of the King, he dissolved the Chamber of Representatives for refusing to adopt the budget, which was a very heavy one in consequence of the determination of the King and his Minister to maintain a very large military force. The war expenditure was incurred without the consent of the House, and the country was ruled for a time without a Parliament. From the year when the Count Von Bismarck attended as Secretary of Legation at Frankfort, strong rivalry and enmity existed between the Count and the Court of Vienna, resulting in a quarrel between the two Powers over the disposition of the duchies of Schleswig and Holstein, which had been torn by them from Denmark. From that disagreement sprang the war of 1866, which has been attributed mainly to the ambitious schemes of the Prussian War Minister, and which did so much towards carrying out the Count's great scheme of Prussian ascendency in Germany, and the establishment of a gigantic Prussian Empire. The abolition of the Germanic Confederation, the formation of the North Germand Bund, and the destruction of Austrian influence throughout the whole of Germany was his work, and he has been labouring continually since the battle of Sadowa to strengthen the position he then gained, and to still further extend the domain of King William I. It remains to be seen how far the present war, which arises out of the jealousy and sense of danger of France at the growth of so vast an empire on its frontier, will tend to the realisation of the plan of conquest and annexation which was arrested by the attitude of Napoleon III. after the battle of Sadowa.



THE COUNT VON BISMARCK-SHONHAUSEN.

THE LEVY EN MASSE.

The French people have not lost courage or resolution in defeat. The *levée en masse* was sufficient to prove that the whole male population capable of striking a blow for their country are ready to bear arms against the Prussians and to defend the fair capital of France from invasion. Our picture on this page represents the scene of the distribution of equipments to the new levies,



THE WAR: DISTRIBUTION OF ARMS AND EQUIPMENTS TO THE NEW LEVIES.

PARIS MODES FOR THE FESTIVAL.

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VIRGINIA GABRIEL'S NEW SONGS.

Beside the Sea (in C and E flat).
Day after Day (in C and E flat).
Eveleen.
Faith.
In Future Years (in B flat and D flat).
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Leave me (Duet).
My Lost Darling (in E flat and F).
Oh, Fair Seraph.
Oh, wilt Thou have my Hand.
Only (in C and E flat).
Parted (in B flat and D).
The Corrigaun sat by a Fountain (in E minor and C minor).
The Deserted House.
The Love of Years.

Thinkest Thou (in D flat and E flat.
Three Roses.
Together.
Two Lives.
Weary (in C and E flat).
What ails this Heart o' Mine.
Whatever is, is best.
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GOLD WATCHES (HUNTING),	£18		18
CLOCKS, CARRIAGE,	£5		0
CLOCKS, ,, (STRIKING),	£7		7
CLOCKS, ,,	£12		12
CLOCKS, LIBRARY (MARBLE),	£4		0
CLOCKS, ,, ,,	£6		0
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The Illustrated MIDLAND NEWS
FORWARD

BIRMINGHAM, AUGUST 20, 1870.

THE campaign of three weeks shows just how much attention has been given to war matters in France and in Prussia respectively since 1866. Napoleon found himself to be, at the time of the contest between Prussia and Austria, not strong enough to cope with one of the great Powers, and he has been organizing for a struggle ever since; but he and his Ministers have had many other things to think of. It has been a very trying four years in France, quite independently of military affairs. Sovereigns in former days who set their minds upon conquest or defence were wont to have little or nothing else on their hands. Domestic affairs went as by a sort of machinery, and were not a source of much anxiety to rulers. To control a nation animated by ideas of progress, constitutionalism, and freedom, a Government ought not to have its mind constantly occupied with the business of war. The Emperor has had too much on his hands. He fancied he was attending at once to home politics and to the perfection of his military strength, but he was mistaken. He has broken down on the field. The same remarks do not apply to Prussia. There the light of liberal ideas, the aspiration for the development of free institutions, have been so effectually smothered for the time that they give no trouble. At the beginning of the Bismarck *régime* the opposition to his policy among the Prussian people was very vehement; but he has succeeded in infusing into their minds an all absorbing ambition for the aggrandisement of Prussia which has taken the place of every other sentiment, and the whole energy, political activity, and governing power of the Kingdom have for some years been concentrated upon that one object. Thus Prussia triumphs. It is at great political and social cost; but it is success, and it satisfies for the time.

THE attitude of the *Times* at a great crisis is always a topic of considerable interest. The leading journal is of no party, but it is very bold in taking up certain ground at the outset on a matter of public importance. Having done that it stands by its position as long as possible, hoping to prove right in the end, and fighting hard, if the tide of events run the contrary way, to bring about the consummation of its own predilections by force of its own great influence. In this war the *Times* "put down its foot" decisively against France at the outset. Many other journals did the same; but they looked at both sides as fresh considerations arose, and upon the whole the principal newspapers have given fair expression to what has suggested itself, now in behalf of Prussia and now in favour of France. The *Times* has hardly done this. It has struck out against one of the combatants at every stage, and raised an almost unqualified cry of triumph over the victories of those who have so far had the fortune of war on their side. The public have no fair ground of complaint against the paper for taking that course. If it sees its way to an undeviating belief in the righteousness of the cause of one of the combatants its advocacy is justified. But there are very many readers who think that an unfair weapon is being drawn on the side of Prussia when the *Times* writes down Napoleon as the French sovereign, and almost plainly counsels Revolution. Neither England, nor Europe generally, nor civilization has anything to gain or to hope for in the triumph of Revolutionary movements in France, and the English journal that encourages the cause of socialism and anarchy in the French capital is laying itself open to grave rebuke.

OUR very friendly neighbours of the little Belgian kingdom are most exuberant in their expressions of gratitude to Great Britain for standing by them as we are doing in their hour of danger. We were on excellent terms with them before. At the International Rifle Meetings in Belgian towns their hospitality to their English guests has on more than one occasion been almost overwhelming. It must be very gratifying to the Volunteers of England who have been feasted and fêted at Brussels and elsewhere within the narrow territory of King Leopold, to find that it has fallen within the duty of our Government to extend the right hand of friendship to that country at a crisis like this. Should the new treaty need to be acted upon many corps of our citizen army would be eager to be sent across the water to draw a trigger for their cordial and hospitable friends. It is pleasant to hear that within the last few days "God save the Queen" has been sung by Belgian crowds in Brussels, and that addresses have been voted to Her Majesty expressive of the sense the people of that kingdom entertain of the friendly conduct of Great Britain at a serious moment in the history of Europe.

IT is not right to doubt the patriotism of the Orleans Princes in offering their services to France in her trial; but it is easy to understand that the Emperor will find it impossible to accept their services. It will be a happy day for Europe as well as for France when the time comes for all parties in the empire to unite their energies for the common welfare of their country: but as yet that day seems distant.

THE ROYAL BIRMINGHAM SOCIETY OF ARTISTS.

The Autumn Exhibition of this Society promises to be unusually attractive. Many pictures by artists of national celebrity appear on the list, and the members of the Society and local artists are well represented. The following are some of the principal paintings:—On the Road to the Cattle Tryst, by Peter Graham; a Country Railway Station, by Erskine Miel, A.R.A.; Portrait of Charles Dickens, Esq., by W. P. Frith, R.A.; "Homeless," by Thomas Faed, R.A.; a Lady, by John Pettie, A.R.A.; a Spanish Subject, by John Phillips, A.R.A.; Fortune and the Sleeping Boy, by E. Armitage, A.R.A.; Don Juan and Haideé, by W. O. Neil, A.R.A.; Alone, by J. Sant, R.A.: the Welsh Funeral and Counting the Flock, by David Cox; Spring, by C. J. Lewis; "Sunset" and "Showery Weather," by George Cole; the Minstrel's Gallery, by H. S. Marks; Autumn, by J. J. Hill; Japanese Chrysanthemums, by Miss A. F. Mutrie; "Love me, Love my Dog," S. Baxter; Lancaster, by Henry Dawson; Sunset, by Henry Moore; a Communication of Importance, D. W. Wynfield; Portrait of Mrs. Markham, by Sir Francis Grant, P.R.A.; pair of drawings—the Reed Piper of Hamlin, by J. G. Pinwell; Anthony, by C. Prinsiss. Other exhibitors are, J. Syer, James Dauby, Miss Osborne, Thomas Roberts, Thomas Brookes, A. McCallum, J. A. Heuster, R.S.A., E. Hayes, A.R.H.A., Mrs. Anderson, E. J. Cobbett, Thomas Sidney Cooper, R.A., James Archer, R.S.A., G. E. Hicks, E. Lang, J. B. Burgess, Alexander Johnstone, C. E. Johnson, G. E. Herring, E. Lear, T. Davidson, W. Heinsley, George Sant, A. Clint, George Wolfe, J. D. Wingfield, &c. The private view is fixed for Saturday, August 27th.

Under the proposed Madras Local Funds' Bill it is intended to levy a tax on all marriages.

All over India there has been plenteous rain. The promise of the great autumn crop is everywhere good.

The annual meeting of the Antwerp Academy takes place next Tuesday.

NEWS OF THE MIDLANDS.

It is stated that large orders have been received in Sheffield for war *matériel*, and that the greatest activity prevails in the manufacture of offensive weapons as well as of defensive armour.

Next Year's Show of the Royal Agricultural Society.—To receive the Royal Agricultural Society handsomely it is estimated that Wolverhampton will need to raise £7,000. Of this amount £4,000 has beea already subscribed.

Madame Patti (Marquise de Caux) being unable to go to Hamburg, owing to the war, was applied to by the Committee of the Birmingham Musical Festival. Her terms, however, were prohibitory, being £200 for each time of singing, which would have brought her receipts up to £1,600.

Mr. Leng, proprietor of the *Sheffield Telegraph*, was tried on the 12th inst., at the Leeds assizes, for publishing a libel on the Earl and Countess of Sefton. Sir John Karslake, who conducted the prosecution, stated that the plaintiff was actuated by no vindictive spirit, but the Earl felt it to be his duty to the public to lay a criminal information against the defendant. Mr. Digby Seymour, who appeared for Mr. Leng, said that his client had made an ample apology for the indiscretion of his sub-editor, Mr. Peddie, and contended that Mr. Leng was not responsible, as when the paragraph was published he was ill at home, and unable to exercise his usual supervision over what went into the paper. The defendant was, however, found guilty. It was annoudced on Saturday by the Judge that sentence will be pronounced next term in the Court of Queen's Bench.

Royal Agricultural Show at Oxford.—The greatest exhibition yet provided by the Royal Agricultural Society has not proved to be the most lucrative. The fact that the Oxford Show was the greatest appears from the measurement of the shedding and the area of canvas covering supplied by Mr. John Unite, of Paddington. At Oxford the total length of sheds amounted to 26,000 lineal feet, or 2,300 feet more than at Manchester. At Bury St. Edmunds, three years ago, the shedding reached to a length of only 12,000 feet. The canvas roofs at Oxford measured 120,000 square yards, so that about 25 acres were actually under cover, the ground itself being nearly three times this size. The total number of admissions was 86,867, and the sum taken at the gates £5,385 13s., to which must be added the sale of season tickets, which we do not at present know. The total of admissions at Manchester was 194,733, the receipts from payment at the gates, £15,629. At Leicester the number was 96,784; the receipts, £6,668. At Bury St. Edmunds the number of admissions was 61,837; so that Oxford has at least eclipsed Bury.

Mdlle. Beatrice as Frou-Frou.—Mdlle. Beatrice and her London Company are playing "Frou-Frou" at the Theatre Royal, Birmingham. Mr. Horace Wigan is *Brigard*, Mr. Henry Sinclair, *Henry de Sartorys*, Miss Sophia Young plays *Louise*. Madame Beatrice's *Frou-Frou* is remarkably fine acting. Her mode of presenting the character is a perfect study of stage personation. The actress is French. She speaks English without a fault, but not as an Englishwoman, and her accent, her vivacity, her vehemence, and all her movements are such as the more perfectly to realise before the audience the purely French character of *Gilberts*. Though she is never for a moment tame or undemonstrative, but rather the opposite, she is never stagey. This is the beauty of her acting. In the wildest and most impassioned scenes she is the most natural. The crisis between the two sisters is a perfect picture of real life under the emotions of the position. The *Louise* was a little too stolid; in Mr. Sinclair there was not quite enough abandonment of self to the part he was acting; but Mr. Wigan's *Brigard* was a masterpiece. The company remains to-night (Saturday) and all next week.

The Birmingham Horse Show.—The annual show of hunters, hacks, harness horses, and ponies, which attracts every year a spirited competition from all Midland Counties, was opened on Tuesday at Birmingham. The entries were, generally speaking, of such a character as to fully maintain the standard of excellence usually reached in these exhibitions, and to evince no falling off in the successful cultivation of the art of breeding and rearing English horses. Lord Combermere is the President for the year. The value of the prizes to be given away amounted to £630. The 1st prize for stallions (thoroughbred hunters) was awarded to Mr. Joseph Casson's Suceatte, from Burgh-on-Sands, Carlisle; 2nd prize to Mr. James Moffat's Laughingstock, also from Carlisle; and 3rd, to Mr. W. Robinson's Professor Airy, from Tamworth. Class 2, hunters exceeding 15½ hands high equal to 15 stone, the 1st prize to Mr. Thomas Percival's Yankee, from Wansford, Northamptonshire; 2nd and 3rd prize to Mr. Batley Richards's Tipperary and Maneapool respectively, both from Oakham. Class 3, hunters 15½ hands high, without condition as to weight: 1st prize, to Mr. Percival's Marquis of Handsford; 2nd prize, to Mr. G. Holmes's Highflyer, from Beverley; 3rd prize, to Mr. H. Spencer Lucy's Golden Hue, from Charlecote Park, Warwick. Class 4, hunters not exceeding 15½ hands high: 1st prize to Major G. A. F. Quintin's Coxcomb, from Cheltenham; 2nd prize to Mr. Blakeway's Surprise, from Stourbridge. Class 1, four-year-old hunters: 1st prize to Mr. A. Newman's Walton, from Winchcomb, Gloucestershire; 2nd, to Mr. W. H. Hollis's Doctor de Jongh, from St. Helen's, Leamington; 3rd, to a black gelding of Mr. C. Milward's, from Moseley, near Birmingham. Class 2, three-year-old colts and fillies: 1st prize to a chestnut colt of Mr. Wesley Richards, of Oakham; 2nd, to Mr. T. Argyle's Jenny of Tamworth; 3rd, to Mr. Robinson's Lothair, from Tamworth. The judging was concluded on Wednesday. The miscellaneous classes came under review, and several prizes were carried off by Lancashire and Yorkshire breeders. Among the prizes awarded were the following: Cobs, not exceeding 14 hands—1st Capt. Ballard; 2nd, Mr. R. Milward. Ladies' hacks, over 15 hands—1st, Mr. T. Percival, Wansford; 2nd, Mr. F. B. Jones, Cheltenham. Ladies' hacks, under 15 hands—1st, Mr. Badham, Bulmer, Sudbury; 2nd, Mr. W. H. Harrison, Oxendon House. Pairs of horses in harness—1st, Mr. G. Holmes, Beverley, Yorkshire. Best appointed tandem of horses or ponies—1st, Mr. G. Tharme, Birmingham.

LITERATURE.

The Dictionary of Chronology, or Historical and Statistical Register. Compiled and edited by William Henry Overall, F.S.A. London: William Tegg, 1870.

We often hear of the books that no library should be without. There are a good many which have a greater or less claim to the distinction; Tegg's Chronology is one of the former. It is hardly too much to say that, to the man who has once learned its value, it is indispensable. How we made out without such a book before we had it is incomprehensible to us after. Thomas Tegg, the famous bookseller of Cheapside, a man who began the world an orphan, without friends or means, and rose to wealth and high civic distinction in the metropolis, was the originator of the work, the first edition of which appeared in 1822. The stout volume before us is Mr. Overall's new edition. It consists of 923 pages of dates and facts, arranged well for reference. When the subject is important the information is not meagre. It is surprising how so much can be told in one volume. Opening the work at random, we come upon the article "Germany." A little more than three pages is devoted to that head, and there appear to be about 300 dates in the notice, beginning with the defeat of the Cimri by the Romans, B.C. 113, and ending with the prorogation of the Diet of the North German Confederation last October. To that is added a list of all the German Emperors. Letting the book fall open again as it will, our eye lights on the article "Iron," about which there are twenty-four lines, and a quarter of a hundred dates, allied to the mention of many curious facts, beginning with a reference to the first mention of iron in Genesis, and concluding with the fact of the patenting of Mr. Bessemer's famous process of hardening iron in 1855. Of "Memorable Sieges" there is a list occupying six columns; of "Famous Battles" nearly 500 are set down in alphabetical order, with their dates. Under the head "Parliament" is a list of first meetings and dissolutions of the House of Commons since 1510. We mention these as specimens. Every subject of any importance is treated in the same way. The new edition has been well brought up to the present time.

Murray's Handbook of Devon and Cornwall. London: John Murray.

To appreciate Murray's Handbook one must travel with the volume in his hand. No guide on two legs, professing to know all about the district, is so reliable at all points, or so well able to indicate what to see and how to see it. And that is not all. Murray's Handbook—we speak now more particularly of the Devon and Cornwall Guide, which lies before us, and of which as a companion in travel we have fresh experience—is remarkably well written, and indeed quite eloquent when the country to be described is beautiful, romantic, or in any way specially interesting. Devon and Cornwall offer opportunities enough to the hand of the accomplished topographer, and he makes the most of his chances, describing his scenes finely, without a word that is meretricious or artificial. The book is one to create in the intending holiday-maker an intense longing to visit the glorious scenes of the West; and when he gets there he will find that his guide has raised never a false hope and never an expectation that is not realised to the full when the chapter and its subject are brought face to face. The book has a special and peculiar value in the case of Devon and Cornwall because there are many portions of those counties, beyond measure delightful to visit, which are unpopulated and lonely and very difficult to explore without a trusty guide. With Murray in your hand you may traverse the wilds of Dartmoor, from North to South or from East to West, pick out and name the tors, follow the streams, and explore the romantic shores of North Devon, or find your way round the lonely cliffs and creeks about the vicinity of Land's End without losing your path or remaining for a quarter of an hour ignorant of the designation of the salient points in sight or of the whereabouts of the locality you design to reach. To the reader of this notice who has two or three week's recreation before him we can wish no happier way of spending his holiday than that of travelling through the two glorious counties of the West with Murray's Handbook in his pocket.

NEW MUSIC.

Jules Benedict's New Songs. London: Duff and Stewart, 147, Oxford Street.

M. Benedict is popularly known as one of the most thoughtful composers of our time. There is classic power in all his works, and Messrs. Duff and Stewart are fortunate in being his publishers. Amongst his latest and best songs may be included "The Mother and the Angel," sung by Madame Patey, and "I Come from the Garden of Roses." It is refreshing in these days of mediocre music to come across two songs so full of original melody and sweetness. We have a number of works from Messrs. Duff and Stewart, which will be fully noticed next week.

The Close of the Ball Galop. By W. H. Montgomery. London: Wood and Calthorpe.

A bright, lively galop, full of verve and character. It is played nightly at the St. James's Theatre.

Where the Bee Sucks. Translation by W. Kuhe. London: Wood and Co.

A charming arrangement of this familiar air, in G major. The introduction is simple, and the variations may be achieved by a moderately accomplished performer.

THE MITRAILLEUR IN ENGLAND.

A series of experiments, to test the comparative merits of Major Fosberry's mitrailleur and the ordinary service guns of the British army, was commenced at Shoeburyness last Thursday, and continued on Friday. Major Fosberry's machine is believed to be an improvement on that in use in the French army, and is used with the Henri rifling and bullet. The experiments are conducted under the superintendence of a committee, consisting of Colonel E. Wray, C.B., R.A., president; Brevet-Colonel J. Shaw, R.A.; Captain the Hon. F. Foley, R.N.; Lieut.-Colonel H. C. Fletcher, Scots Fusilier Guards; and Captain W. H. Noble, R.A., with Lieut.-Colonel H. Hayman, R.A., as secretary. Both on Thursday and Friday there was a considerable attendance of military men to witness the practice. The mitrailleur consists of thirty-seven hexagonal rifle barrels of one-inch bore bound together. A perforated plate charged with bullets is placed in the breech and screwed up by the use of the lever, and the whole charge can be fired either as a volley or in single shots. Horizontal motion can be given to the gun, enabling it to fire along the line instead of bearing on one point only, as when stationary. The total weight of this mitrailleur, exclusive of accessories, is 3 cwt. 20 lbs.; with limber and ammunition, 12 cwt. It can be drawn by two horses, and is easily worked by one non-commisssioned officer and five men, though on an emergency one officer and three men would be quite sufficient. A nine-pounder field gun requires one officer and ten men, weighs with its full complement 33½ cwts., and is drawn by six horses. For the practice on Thursday a black target, 90 yards in length, and 9 feet high, bearing figures roughly painted in red and white to represent a front of 150 infantry and 90 cavalry, was fixed out on the marsh, and the experiments against it began at a range of 800 yards. A timekeeper stands by the side of the weapon, and, on the word being given to load, the axle-tree boxes of the machine are opened, the breech-plate, charged with thirty-seven cartridges, is rapidly placed in and pushed up with a lever, and the cocks are raised. The word is given to fire, and, by a single stroke of a second lever operating on what is called the shutter, the thirty-seven bullets are sent whizzing through the air. No sooner is one discharge made than the same process is repeated with a second plate, a third, fourth, and fifth, the object in these first trials being to test rapidity of firing as well as work achieved. The first, second, and third volleys were fired without a hitch, but in the fourth and fifth two of the cartridges failed to fire, and 35 bullets only out of 37 were dispatched. The total number of bullets fired at this range was 214, and on the party going down to inspect the targets they found 110 had gone clean through. This performance represented, according to the mildest official computation, from the marks on the bodies and limbs of the dummies, the disablement, of 38 cavalry, or of 48 infantry. These volleys were fired with the mitrailleur stationary, but in the practice afterwards the horizontal motion was brought into play, to produce the effect of file firing. Five charges of bullets were used in this way, and were fired in two minutes, giving 154 hits, with a loss to the enemy of 59 cavalry or 49 infantry. Four minutes' work had given 264 hits, representing about half that number of killed or wounded soldiers. The next trial was with a 9-pounder Indian bronze field gun, weighing by itself 12 cwt. Firing shrapnel with time fuses, this gun was discharged five times in the first and eight eight times in the second two minutes. It gave as results, in the first round, 118 hits on the target, representing 24 cavalry or 27 infantry killed or disabled; and in the second round, 115 hits, with 45 cavalry or 51 infantry overthrown. A 12-pounder breech-loading rifle field gun, with segment shells and concussion fuses, were next brought to bear. Doing six rounds in two minutes, the twelve-pounder scored 38 hits, placing *hors de combat* 15 cavalry or 18 infantry. With shrapnel and time fuses, the same gun recorded 15 hits, showing the destruction of 8 cavalry or 5 infantry. The mitrailleur was then tried at 600 yards. 61 cavalry or 51 infantry were killed or wounded by 127 hits. The muzzle-loading rifled bronze field gun, at the same range, with shrapnel and time fuze, gave, as the result of two minutes' work, 283 hits, disposing of 68 cavalry or 88 infantry, surpassing the mitrailleur very considerably. The twelve-pounder, over the same ground, scored 142 hits, disabling 48 cavalry or 58 infantry. At 300 yards the mitrailleur fired 5 rounds in two minutes, making 171 hits, killing or wounding 60 cavalry or 129 infantry. On resuming the practice on Friday morning it was found that all the dummies had been killed or wounded on the previous day except one, who had stood unscathed. He was forthwith decorated with a collar and medal, and was killed in the very next round. The mitrailleur began work at 400 yards, and in six rounds, fired in two minutes, made 180 hits, disabling 73 cavalry or 84 infantry. A 12-pounder, fired at the same range with case, did nine rounds in two minutes, scoring 166 hits, representing 72 cavalry or 79 infantry placed *hors de combat*. The 9-pounder fired 11 rounds of case in the two minutes, giving a return of killed or wounded of 77 cavalry or 86 infantry, With shrapnel the 9-pounder represented in figures 144 hits, 54 cavalry or 66 infantry killed or wounded. This finished the rapid firing practice. In deliberate firing at 400 yards the mitrailleur in five rounds, occupying three minutes fifty seconds, scored 177 hits, representing 83 cavalry or 74 infantry killed or wounded, and leaving only 8 bullets unaccounted for. In this practice separate firing of each barrel, with horizontal motion of the gun, sent the bullets popping all along the whole line. The 9-pounder, with case, made 110 hits, disposing of 52 cavalry or 59 infantry; the 12-pounder, with case, 118 hits, 47 cavalry or 58 infantry. At 300 yards single shooting the mitrailleur recorded 179 hits with casualities to 92 cavalry or 83 infantry, done in two minutes fifty-five seconds. In the same mode of firing from end to end, at 600 yards, the mitrailleur made 107 hits, equal to 49 cavalry or 52 infantry killed or wounded. At 800 yards, with single shots and one volley, it scored 106 hits, representing the disablement of 40 cavalry or 45 infantry. The 12-pounder with case at the same range made 138 hits, killing or wounding 53 cavalry or 59 infantry. The day's practice concluded with the firing of the 9-pounder with case at 800 yards. It did mischief to 58 cavalry or 64 infantry out of 162 hits. Very many of these computations, which were drawn from the damage actually shown, considerably understate the amount of injury that would be done to man and horse with equally good firing in real action. The conclusions most generally drawn were that, although the mitrailleur will unquestionably prove a useful arm under many circumstances—such, for example, as defending a pass—it has by no means shown itself to be vastly superior in point of execution to an average field-piece.

NEW PATENTS.

(Contributed by Messrs. Payne and Talbot, 1, *Bennett's-hill, and 56, Ann-street, Birmingham.)*

Improvements in apparatus for cooking, heating, and lighting by gas. S. Leoni, London.

Improvements in machinery or apparatus for dressing or working stone. W. Brass and P. Hackworth, London.

Improvements in lamps for burning hydro-carbons, and applicable for railway carriages. G. Battimelli, Southwark.

Improvements in ploughing, and in ploughing implements. T. Reid, Monkton Miln, Aryshire, N.B.

Improvements in machinery for engine turning or engraving metallic or other surfaces. E. Hill, Sheffield. (A communication from E. Darier, Geneva.)

Improved apparatus for heating knives for reaping and mowing machines, in order to the partial hardening of such knives. S. Osborn and W. H. Fawcett, Sheffield.

Improvements in machinery or apparatus for straining paper pulp. J. H. Johnson, London. (A communication from J. Mathiew, Paris.)

Improvements in the manufacture of pressed leather, and in machinery employed for this purpose. A. Dickson and T. Law, Leicester.

Improvements in the construction and arrangement of mechanism for actuating sewing and other machines worked by a treadle. J. H. Johnson, London. A communication from C. H. Willcox, New York, U.S.)

Improvements in propelling vessels, and in apparatus for the same. P. K. M. Skinner, London.

An improvement in brushes applied to drills for sowing all kinds of corn and seed. C. Dening and S. H. Dening, Chard, Somersetshire.

Improvements in, and connected with, water-closets and other sanitary appliances. J. R. Mann, East Cowes, Isle of Wight.

Improvements in caps for scent, and other bottles or vessels. H. W. Dee, London.

An improved alloy or metallic compound applicable for the bearings or the lining of bearings of machinery. T. S. Davis, Bristol, Somersetshire.

Improvements in the manufacture of wrought metal wheels, and in machinery for the same. A. M. Clarke, London. (A communication from C. and B. and G. Brunon, Paris.)

Improvements in the treatment of sewage, and the production of manures. D. Forbes, London, and A. P. Price, London.

Improved means of oiling the bearings and journals of revolving shafts, spindles, and pins of reaping and mowing machines. J. T. Griffin, London. (A communication from W. A. Wood, New York, U.S.

Improvements in looms for weaving. J. L. Norton, London.

Improvements in thrashing machines, and in driving mechanism for the same, and for other machinery. W. R. Lake, London. (A communication from G. B. Hamlin, Connecticut, U.S.)

Improvements in apparatus for holding postage and other stamps for office and general uses. T. J. Smith, London. (A communication from G. C. Hatch, Calcutta, India.)

Improvements in wrenches. J. H. Johnson, London. (A communication from G. C. Taft, Worcester, Massachusetts, U.S.)

A new or improved process for dissolving or reducing crude or manufactured india-rubber. W. M. Mac Cartney, Glasgow, Lanarkshire, N.B.

Improvements in the manufacture of non-explosive compounds, forming the material for the manufacture of collodion and other substances, and in apparatus therefor. W. T. Henry and D. Spill, jun., North Woolwich, Essex.

Improvements in ploughs. J. Howard, Bedford.

Improvements in the construction of partitions or walls C. Beard, Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk.

Improvements in the construction of retorts, muffles, pots, and furnaces for reducing zinc and other ores. A. Borgnet, Swansea, Glamorganshire.

Improvements in machinery and arrangements for cutting or getting minerals. G. Simpson, Glasgow, Lanarkshire, N.B.

Certain improvements in machinery or apparatus used in sizing and dressing yarn. C. Mather, Salford, Lancashire.

Improvements in travelling and other bags, cases, and boxes. F. J. Knewstub, London.

Improvements in reaping or harvesting machines. G. Lewis, Kittering, Northamptonshire.

Improvements in ships and vessels. J. J. Mendez, London.

Improvements in apparatus for dyeing or otherwise treating yarns. T. P. and D. Miller, Cambruslang Dyeworke, Lanarkshire, N.B.

(*Patents upon which the £50 Stamp Duty has been paid*).

Improvements in apparatus for cleaning windows. G. Warsop, Nottingham.

Improvements in the extraction and separation of the sulphor contained in products resulting from the alternate exposure of certain metallic oxides to gases, containing sulphuretted hydrogen and to oxygen. A. McDongall, Manchester.

Improvements in lawn mowing machines. J. Shanks, Arbroath, Forfarshire, N.B., and J. Cargill, London.

Improvements in machinery for saving or covering the lists or edges of fabrics. G. Pilling, J. Pilling, and F. Jennings, Halifax, Yorkshire.

Improvements in circular knitting frames. H. M. Mellor, Nottingham.

Improvements in puddling and other furnaces employed for melting, boiling, or heating iron. J. A. Jones, R. Howson, and J. Gjers, Middlesborough-on-Lees, Yorkshire.

Improvements in metallic capsules for bottles and other like receptacles. W. Betts, London.

Improvements in ordnance and machinery to be used in throwing projectiles, part of which machinery is applicable for other purposes. H. Bessemer, London.

Improvements in treating phosphate of lime for the manufacture of manure, and for other purposes. J. T. Way, Kensington, Middlesex.

Improvements in heated air engines. J. H. Wenham. Clapham, Surrey.

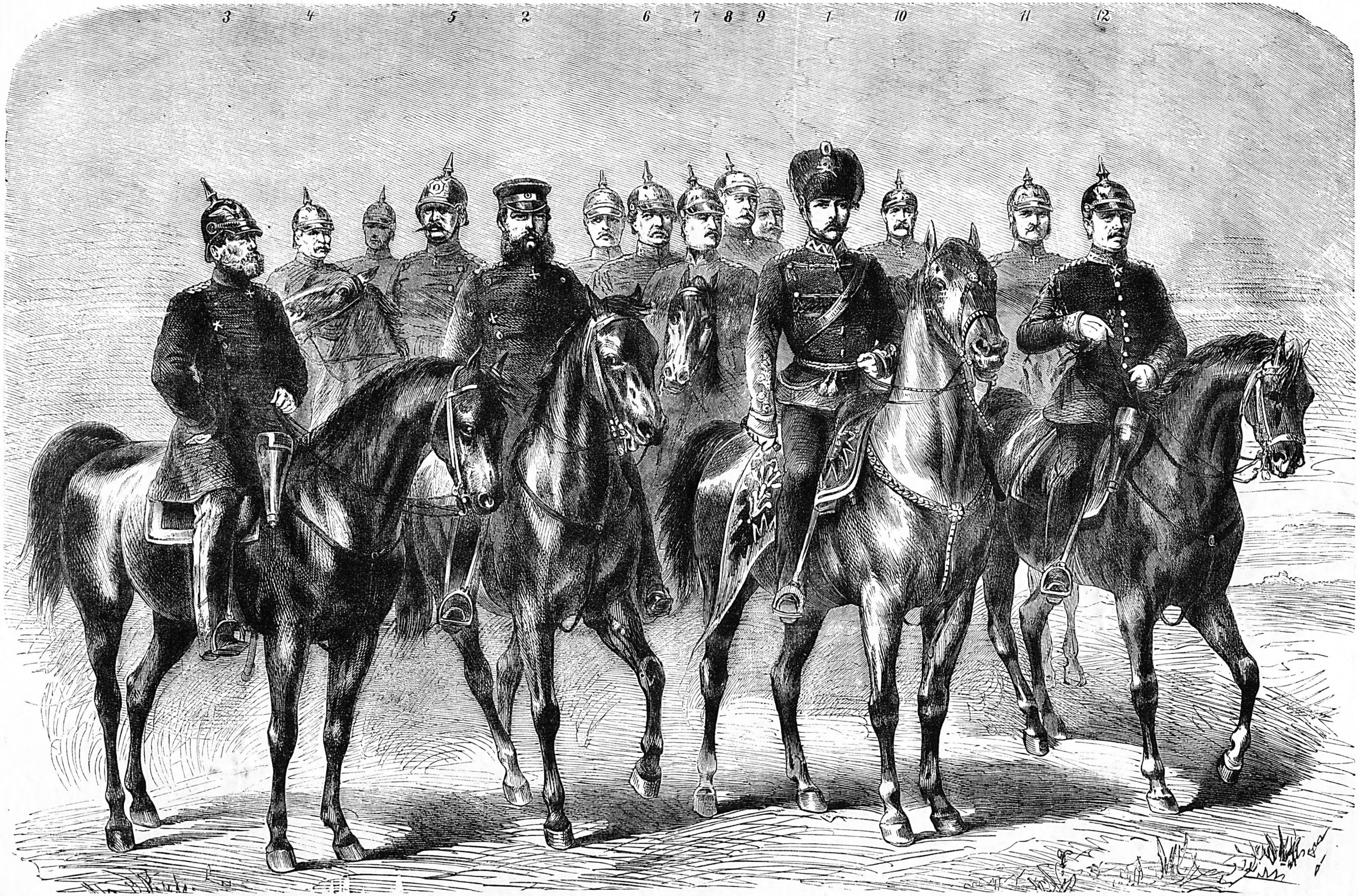
Certain improvements in safety apparatus to be employed for preventing accidents in winding coals and other minerals from mines. E. Ormerod, Atherton, Lancashire.

An improved earth closet. A. F. Baird, London.

An improved rack for mineral or aërated waters or other liquids in bottles. W. Burrow, Great Malvern, Worcestershire.

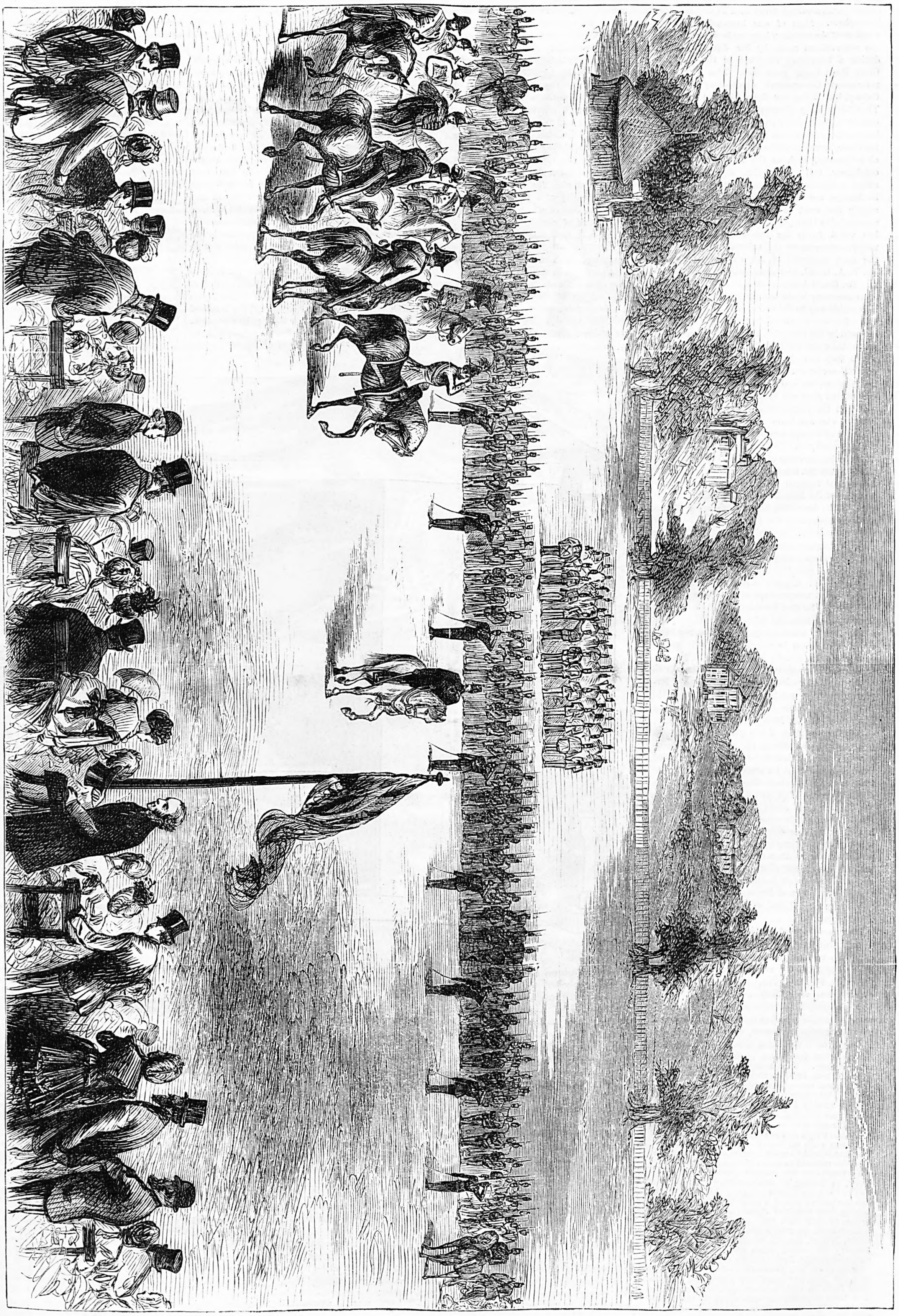
Improvements in apparatus for raising water or other liquids by steam power. A. M. Clark, London. (A communication from W. L. Horne, Illinois, U.S.)

Improvements in indexes or telltales applicable to fluid meters and other counting or measuring apparatus. W. W. Pocock, Westminster.



PRUSSIAN COMMANDERS. *(See page 114.)*

1. Prince Frederick Charles. 2. The Crown Prince of Prussia. 3. General Von Falckenstein. 4. General Von Bonin. 5. Prince August Von Wurtemburg. 6. General Von Shack. 7. General Von Mutius. 8. General Von Steinmetz. 9. General Von Mulbe. 10. General Von Schmidt. 11. Major General Beyer. 12. General Herwarth Von Bittenfeld.



GRAND REVIEW OF THE FIRST WARWICKSHIRE VOLUNTEERS IN CALTHORPE PARK. (*See page 114.*)

SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY.

Astronomy has yet much to expect from the southern skies, under which, for obvious reasons, observatories are much fewer than in the northern hemisphere. Most of our knowledge of the wonders of the southern heavens is derived from the observations made by Sir John Herschel during a temporary residence at the Cape of Good Hope many years ago. True there is a permanent Government observatory at that Colony, but it has not done its duty hitherto. Then there is an observatory at Sydney, whose director appears to have gone to sleep. At Melbourne there is another, the most industrious of the three, working well at the severer business of astronomy, such as the formation of star catalogues, and giving what attention it can afford to the more luxurious departments such as in Europe are usually left to amateurs. To supply the want of further observational resources below the equator, the Argentine Congress has voted funds for the establishment of a national observatory at Cordova, and has invited the most energetic of American astronomers, Dr. B. A. Gould, to organise and take charge of it. Dr. Gould lately visited Europe to procure some necessary books and instruments, and he is now on his way to the south, with four assistants and a fine equipment of instruments. His first aim will be the extension of the star-charts and star-catalogues southwards from the point to which they have been carried by the northern celestial surveyors. His secondary object will be the photometric and spectroscopic observations of southern stars and nebulæ. Dr. Gould carries with him the best wishes of the astronomers of Europe, who well know what good advantage he will take of the opportunity thus offered him by the generosity of the Argentine Government.

At the last meeting of the Scottish Meteorological Society Mr. Buchan, the secretary, exhibited a series of thirteen charts illustrating the temperature of the British Isles in each month of the year, and in describing them made some pertinent remarks concerning the bearing of meteorology upon agriculture. Referring to the belief among scientific farmers that if the temperature falls to 40 degrees there is no growth in crops for 24 hours, he said that places where the mean temperature was about 46 degrees might be reckoned to have a night temperature of about the critical 40 degrees. So that by observing the charts for the various months and taking note of those parts of the country whose temperatures are less than 46 degrees it may be ascertained at what places during certain months there will be little vegetable growth—a matter of great importance in discussing the produce of Britain. Another important question was the temperature required to ripen cereals. From the examinations made by competitors for the Marquis of Tweedale's prize, offered for a solution of this question, it had been proved that, considering the range of temperature in Scotland, there must be an average of 56 degrees in a district for cereals to ripen. Below that mean temperature the district will yield a deficient crop. With such charts as Mr. Buchan has prepared one could point to those parts of the British Islands where there must be some hazard in rearing cereal crops—places, to wit, where that temperature is scarcely to be expected or where it occurs very seldom. We presume that these charts will be published in due course: the only isothermal maps at present available are those of Professor Dove: these are now ten years old, and were formed from insufficient data.

There is a prospect that in the course of a few years railways of very simple construction will come into use, for short journeys at least. We have all heard of the wonderful achievements on the little Festiniog line, that so surprised the conservatism of railway engineers. But Mr. Fairlie's system is cumbrous to that announced with favourable report as having been introduced by a Hungarian gentleman, upon a line five miles in length on a mountain side. The peculiarity in this latest innovation is the absence of permanent way. The rails are simply two-inch strips of iron, fixed on each of the upper corners of an oaken beam, 14 inches broad and 8 inches high. These beams are made in 18 feet lengths, and are merely laid end to end on the ground, with cross sleepers only where the looseness of the soil renders them necessary. The trucks are twice the width of the rails (3 feet 6 inches), and they run each on two pairs of 8 inch wheels. The line is said to work admirably, and the cost could be reduced to about £200 a mile.

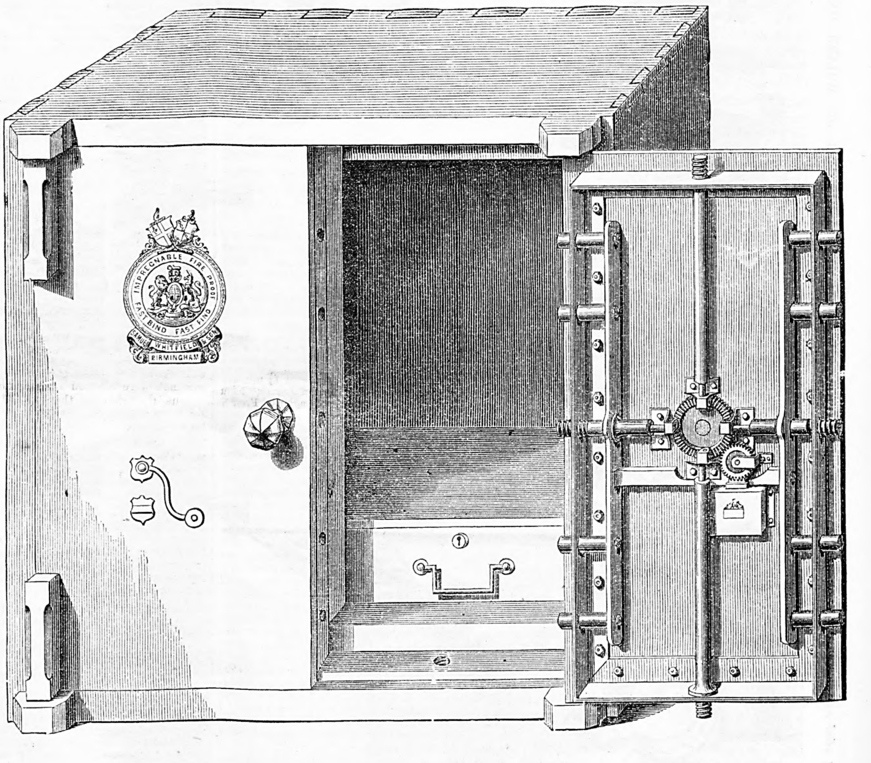
Fortunate are the manufacturers at Erie, New York, in having a constant supply of costless fuel in the shape of natural gas. About six weeks ago the proprietors of a large mill, who had been paying four hundred dollars a month for coal, began to drill into the ground in search of a subterranean gasholder like that of their neighbours, Messrs. Jarecki, who have worked a brass foundry for several years with gas that freely and unceasingly flows from the earth. In a short time the rock was penetrated to a depth of 493 feet, the mill was cased and piped, and the gas came forth in such copious quantities that they now have more than enough to supply the boilers of two forty-horse engines. One might suppose that the store would soon be exhausted, but a well in the southern part of the city drilled eight or ten years ago is giving off gas as strongly as ever.

WHITFIELD'S PATENT SAFES.

Proper as it is to call a spade a spade, it is not always correct to call a safe a safe. We shall be rather under than over the mark if we affirm that more than fifty per cent. of the "safes" sold every day woefully belie their names, and would fail on a serious test to afford the essential qualifications. A safe to be worthy of its name must possess three leading qualities. Its plates must be proof against the burglar's drill; its lock must resist the most delicate manipulation of the picker and remain impregnable to the violence of gunpowder; and the whole interior must be proof against the action of external heat.

We need scarcely say that in this age of industrial enterprise these results have been effectually attained by several of the principal English safe-makers. There can, for instance, be no doubt about the security of a Milner's, or a Chubb's safe, and the one of which we give a sketch to-day—the work of our townsman, Mr. Samuel Whitfield—will favourably compare, both as regards ingenuity of design and excellence of workmanship, with the very best specimens hitherto produced in this country.

Many of our Birmingham readers will recognise the subject of the illustration given below, from having frequently seen a sample of the article itself conspicuously exhibited in the window of Messrs. Whitfield's depôt in Stephenson Place.



The main features of this safe, which, by the bye, were suggested to Mr. Whitfield by the revelations of the burglar's profession made a few years since in London, are very simple, but their advantages are obvious, even to the casual observer. The screw-bolt is the basis of the patent right, and the object of this, in place of ordinary square bolt, is to prevent the action of wedges or jemmies, and effectualy to resist any pressure brought to bear upon the ends of the bolts. Our sketch shows the safe doors so fitted. The lock-case with the fire-proof chamber is removed, to exhibit the construction and action of the bolts, which are represented thrown out as they would be when the safe is locked. An important feature is that all the bolt work is securely fixed on to the thick plate of the door, instead of to the lock-case only, as in ordinary safes, thereby offering great resistance to force however applied. The wheel and pinions which propel the bolts are moved by a "winch" from the outside through a small keyhole. The winch may be withdrawn without the key, and as it is quite useless without the key its safe keeping is not of much consequence. A sliding escutcheon covers the small aperture. The two centre bolts have strong screwed ends, which enter into screwed holes in the strong frame of the safe at the right and left-hand; and by the same operation plain round bolts are carried into plain holes in like manner. The lock-bolt is then thrown up between two tail-pieces on the cross-heads. The latter carry the bolts having toothed ends, and thus the wheel as well as the bolts are firmly strewed. All Whitfield's safes have "intersected" plates: that is, a layer of hardened steel, such as would blunt the edge of any drill, is embedded between two thicknesses of Staffordshire iron.

And now a word as to the locks on Whitfield's safes. These are on Mappin's principle, upon which Mr. Whitfield, jun., who takes an active part in the management of the works, has recently improved. The principal internal mechanism of this lock may be briefly described. A cylinder of brass containing an accurately-fitting smaller cylinder forms the lock-case. The two cylinders are provided with twelve radial grooves, eight on the top and four on the under side; the grooves in the outer cylinder being a continuation of those in the inner one. Each groove is provided with a steel slide, divided at unequal distances. A double action lever fits into an aperture in the face plate of the lock. Should a false key or picker be introduced the outer cylinder is sufficiently moved to cause the lever referred to to fix itself into a notch on the inner cylinder. It is then impossible for any but the true key to open the lock, which is effected by the whole of the slides being forced into their proper position. The inner cylinder is then free to rotate, and the bolt may be thrown. This arrangement answers all the purpose of Chubb's famous "detector." Mr. Whitfield, jun., has made an important addition to Mappin's Lock. The steel plate that covers the inner barrel is provided with a tubular flange, which projects into a corresponding opening in the barrel, thus preventing alike the withdrawal of the slides and the removal of the pin. With this addition we have no hesitation in pronouncing Mappin's Lock equal to any safe-lock in the market.

The works of Messrs. Samuel Whitfield and Sons, close to the railway viaduct in Oxford-street, will well repay a visit. The arrangement of the establishment is unique, and many of the self-acting machines are on the best and newest principles. Among the safes in course of execution at the time of our visit was a plate chest for Lord Aylesford. It is 8 feet high, 8 feet wide, and 5 feet deep. It is made of $\frac{3}{8}$ inch boiler plates, all planed by machinery, and abutted together by $5\frac{3}{4}$ inch bars, rivetted together with red hot rivets, tapering from either end, so that forcing is impossible. The doors are "intersected," shooting six bolts each back and front, and each set of bolts is secured with the new patent lock already described, having twelve slides.

Whitfield's safes are made of every imaginable size, and at every gradation in price from £4 to £400. The Birmingham and Midland Bank, in New-street, has all its safes and strong rooms on Whitfield's principle, and many other banking houses in England and abroad have selected Whitfield's safes above all others. What Milner is to Liverpool and Chubb to London, Messrs. Whitfield are to Birmingham. Theirs is the representative house, and these three establishments may be said to divide among them the cream of the safe trade of Great Britain.

New Croquet Rules.—The principal points in which the new laws differ from those previously in force, are as follows:—The ball at starting is to be placed directly in front of the first hoop and one foot from it, so as to make running the first hoop a moral certainty, bringing all the balls into play at once. This is as it should be, for the chief beauty of croquet depends on the combinations which arise when the balls are in play. It is very similar to the rule proposed in the *Gentleman's Magazine* in 1868. We then remarked that this rule was only a common sense one, but we feared, common sense being an uncommon thing, that it would not be generally adopted. We are glad to find our fear was without foundation. A further advance on the old rule, suggested by us, and now adopted, is that if the player misses his first hoop he is liable to an appropriate penalty. His ball, instead of being taken up out of harm's way, as was formerly the case, must remain where it lies, and is liable to be made use of by the other players at their first or subsequent strokes, whether they have run the first hoop or not. This is sound in principle; no satisfactory reason can be assigned for the old rule, which compelled a ball to run the first hoop before coming into play.—*Croquet in* 1870 *by "Cavendish," in Gentleman's Magazine.*

Clymping Church, Sussex.—Norman architecture is getting so scarce in small rural churches that wherever it appears it seems to have an especial claim upon us. For that reason if for no other many lovers of old English ecclesiastical architecture will take an interest in the prospectus recently issued with respect to the proposed restoration of Clymping Church, Sussex, illustrated with a pretty picture of the Norman doorway, in an excellent state of preservation, in the tower. Clymping is a small sequestered village on the South coast of England, in a parish with an unwealthy population of about two hundred and sixty persons, not able to subscribe either the £2,000 required to repair the Church or the £500 needed for the Schools; and hence the incumbent, the Rev. W. Henry Jenkins, sends us a statement of the case, with an appeal for help to such of our readers as are interested either in the preservation of an exceedingly interesting specimen of a Norman and Early English church, or in affording help and encouragement to an earnest country clergyman in the pursuit of the intellectual and spiritual improvement of the condition of his flock under difficulties. The church tower belongs to the 12th century, and there is against its north side the mark of a roof still older, perhaps Saxon. The church itself is nearly as old as the tower, but it wants a deal of restoration, as may be judged by the appeal to which we refer. With regard to the education of the children, the Sunday School is carried on in a coach-house and the Day School in a labourer's cottage. Need we say more?

The Midland Favourite.—A Lasting and Refreshing Summer Perfume for the Handkerchief.—Prepared only by A. Court, Chemist, 35, Bull Street, Birmingham. Established 1790. 1676

THE WAR IN PRUSSIA.

(From our Special Correspondent.)

AUGUST 8TH, MANNHEIM.*

I have taken up my abode in this town for the present, as being the nearest point to the frontier to which civilians are allowed to penetrate. Here at least, next to seeing the fighting, I can hear what is going on, and pick up particulars from the wounded, both Germans and French, in the hospitals, and chat with the prisoners who pass upon their way to Berlin. Although the campaign only opened in earnest five days since, the results have already been very great, and the fighting has been of a most desperate character. First we had two attacks upon Weissemburg, and the storming of Geisburg hill which lies behind it, then we had the action between MacMahon's division and the army of the Crown Prince at Wœrth, and lastly we hear of an engagement which lasted from daybreak until evening along the Prussian right and centre, and which ended in the entire withdrawal of the French army before Metz. Even thus early in the campaign it is evident that the French are outnumbered, and that, although some partial successes may of course attend their arms, the fate of the war is against them. The German army in the Pau number nearly, if not quite, 700,000 men—probably the greatest body of men massed together since the army of Xerxes invaded Greece. The French army opposed to them can hardly number over 350,000 men, so that the Prussians are in a majority of two to one. An inequality against which even French valour cannot hope to struggle. Our news from the front last night was that a general advance was taking place along the whole line, and it is probable that to-morrow a desperate battle will be fought in front of Metz. This town is the point to which the army of the left, under the Crown Prince, are sent back. The cases requiring amputation remain in field hospitals, and many no doubt are at Spezer and Landau. The Bavarians, too, are for the most part taken to Carlsruhe, but here alone there are at the present moment nearly two thousand wounded. We have no account of the losses upon the right wing, but it is probable that they are as large as that which the Crown Prince's army has suffered in the two battles at Weissenburg and Wœrth. The fact that both sides admit heavy losses, while neither give any figures, is significant of the slaughter which has taken place already, and short as is the time which the conflict has lasted as yet, I hear hopes are expressed that the great battle before Metz will be the last of the war, and that the neutral powers will then step in and make peace with the combatants.

The frankness with which the Emperor of the French has acknowledged his defeat shows how serious is its effect, and how impossible it was to conceal it, or to attempt to lessen its importance.

The treatment which the French prisoners receive at the hands of the people is most admirable. Upwards of two thousand have passed through this station on their way to Berlin, and here, and I believe at every station on the line, the people present them with wine, cigars, and refreshments exactly in the same way that they do to their own soldiers. The French are generally very dejected. I have spoken to many of them, and they all tell the same story, that their enemy fought most gallantly, but that they could have held their own against them had they not been altogether outmatched in numbers. The Germans similarly attest the valour of the French, except in the case of the Turcos, who, they say, fought badly, and are contemptible as foes. In the hospitals no distinction is made between French and Prussian, and the foes who only three days since struggled in deadly strife now lie on beds side by side. Nothing can exceed the neatness and comfort of the hospitals. Here, as indeed everywhere throughout the Prussian military arrangements, everything is perfect in its way. There are scarcely any troops in this town, so few, indeed, that when trains come in with wounded the fire brigade go down to form a guard and keep the place clear. Upon the arrival of these trains, or rather when they are expected, bugles are sounded in the streets, and the men of the fire brigade, and of the Association for the Relief of the Wounded, leave their shops and business and at once go down to the station to render any assistance that may be needed. Much anxiety is manifested at each fresh arrival, for the Baden contingent formed part of the army under the Crown Prince, and it is probable therefore that many of the friends and relations of the townspeople here are among those who have fallen. Up to the present time, however, the number of Baden wounded who have arrived is small. The receipt of telegrams is an occassion of almost hourly excitement. As they arrive they are printed upon small slips of paper which are sold in the streets by boys at a kreutzer, about a farthing, each. The papers here give very meagre accounts of what is taking place, the representatives of the German press being equally excluded from the army with those of other nations. Up to within the last day or two indeed the publication of war news was strictly prohibited, and papers were seized in Frankfort and elsewhere which had ventured in the slightest degree to contravene this regulation. I do not learn that the regulation has been actually rescinded, but with the advance of the army, and the developement of its plans, all occassion for concealment has ceased, and, I hope that ere long the strict exclusion of correspondents from the line of the army will cease. Until it does so we are obliged to remain where we are, and to pick up any crumbs of intelligence as we best may. Indeed as far as actual information is concerned we might just as well be in London. It is certainly most annoying and mortifying to be thus within a few miles of the most stirring events of modern times, and to be forbidden to advance a step farther under pain of all sorts of penalties and punishments.

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* This letter has been delayed in transmission.

THE WAR.

This week has been one of great anxiety to all who take an earnest interest in the progress of the War. Six days ago it was thought that the chances of the French were almost desperate, and that another week might change the misfortunes of the Imperial forces into irretrievable disaster. The week has been marked by exciting but not by decisive or even by definite news. Battles have been fought, some on a small scale, and one or two of importance. In every case the destruction of life has been terrible in proportion to the magnitude of the engagement, and, at the time of writing, the relative positions of the armies do not appear to have materially changed. The French have retired, but it has been more from reasons of strategy than of absolute necessity, and the Prussians do not seem to have taken much advantage of the falling back of their foes. The French have been evidently waiting, and, while strengthening their position they have carefully avoided taking the initiative in any hostile movement.

On the 10th it was reported that Strasburg was surrounded on all sides, and the railways leading thence to Hagenau, Paris, and Lyons were occupied by the German troops. The Commander disregarded the summons of General Beyer to surrender. On the 11th the King of Prussia addressed a proclamation to the French inhabitants at Saarbruck in which he said:—

The Emperor Napoleon having made, by land and by sea, an attack on the German nation, which desired and still desires to live in peace with the French people, I have assumed the command of the German armies to repel this aggression, and I have been led by military circumstances to cross the frontiers of France. I am waging war against soldiers, not against French citizens.

The many reports that were spread of the Prince Imperial being in Paris and in London appear to have been incorrect. In the middle of this week, according to telegraphic despatches, he was still with the Emperor at the seat of war. Accounts received by the French at Metz represent the Prussian troops as uniformly behaving with consideration and humanity to the inhabitants of the places through which they pass. They scrupulously pay for everything, and state that they do not make war upon France, but upon the Emperor. On Saturday it was officially announced in Berlin that Nancy was evacuated by the French. On the same day King William proclaimed the abolition of the conscript throughout the French territory occupied by German troops. On Monday evening a telegram was received by the Queen of Prussia at Berlin, from King William, announcing that a victorious battle had been fought near Metz, in which the First and Seventh Army Corps were engaged. His Majesty stated that he had no details, but was going forward immediately to the field of battle from his head-quarters at Herny. On the other hand a despatch from the Emperor, dated Monday, was as follows:—

The French Army commenced to cross over to the left bank of the Moselle this morning. Reconnoitring parties announced the presence of the Prussian vanguards. When one half of the army had crossed, the Prussians attacked in great force, and, after a fight which lasted four hours, were repulsed with considerable losses.

It was reported in Paris on Sunday as follows:

Metz is now in a perfect state of defence, and fully provisioned for a siege. No persons are allowed to take up residence there without being provided with at least forty days' provision, and the police have commenced controlling the supply of water to the inhabitants. Marshal Lebœuf constantly makes daring reconnaissances at the head of a brigade of Cuirassiers.

According to French official accounts, the Emperor left Metz on Monday at two p.m., with the Prince Imperial, for Verdun. Before he left Metz, a proclamation of the Emperor was published, in which he said:—

In leaving you to oppose the invading enemy, I rely upon your patriotism to defend this great city. You will not allow foreigners to seize this bulwark of France, and you will emulate the army in courage and devotion. I shall preserve a grateful memory of the welcome I have found within your walls, and I hope to be able to return in happier times to thank you for your noble conduct.

According to Prussian reports the losses of the French in the battle before Metz on Sunday were 4000 men. The French report says the Prussians lost 4000. The following is the account of the conflict, as reported at the Prussian head-quarters:—

At about four on Sunday afternoon, our advanced guard before Metz believed they saw signs of a retrograde movement of the French Corps which were still encamping under the protection of the fortress. Without delay the brigade of General Goesz attacked the rear-guard of General Decaen's Corps, formerly the Corps of Marshal Bazaine, and succeeded in engaging it in such a severe encounter, that the whole Corps and some detachments of the troops under General Frossard were obliged to hasten to the front to its assistance. General Glumer then led his 2nd Brigade (East Saxons) at once to the front, and the divisions of Generals Kamecke and Wrangel opportunely engaged in the fight on the left wing, and ultimately drove back the enemy on all points behind the works of the fortress. In the meantime, the French Corps under General Ladmirault had endeavoured to fasten upon the right flank of the 1st Army Corps, but was attacked by General Manteuffel's reserves, who advanced to the beat of the drums, and storming successively the positions held by different detachments of the enemy, drove them back into the fortress in an equally decisive manner as in other parts of the field. The troops of this wing pushed on as far as Belle Croix and Borny, within range of the advanced forts.

King William, in a telegram to Berlin, describes this as "a very bloody fight."

45,000 men left Paris on the 12th for Châlons. Volunteering is going on in Paris and throughout France with immense activity.

Judging from the rather confused and contradictory telegrams there seems to have been something like a continuous battle, in which a very large portion of each army was engaged, extending over Saturday, Sunday, and Monday. A despatch from Luxembourg, dated Friday, runs as follows:—

On Saturday the French retreated. The Prussian advance guard crossed the Moselle and engaged the French rear guard. The French army came back to its support, and threw themselves on the Prussian advance guard, and drove them back under the guns of Metz. Their loss is said to be 28,000 killed and wounded, and 5,000 prisoners. The action became general along the whole line yesterday between Metz and Nancy.

A Berlin telegram of Monday said:—

In the battle fought at Pange, on Sunday, nearly 60,000 German troops, under General Steinmetz, were engaged. It is reported here that the action lasted six hours. The French corps, under L'Admirault, De Caen, and Frossard, were defeated. Marshal Bazaine was present. The French withdrew into Metz, and are retreating on Verdun.

A correspondent of the *Standard*, who was with the French army before Metz, telegraphed on Wednesday:—

On Sunday the Prussians were repulsed with great losses; the French were retiring strategically upon Verdun; on Monday the Emperor was at Gravalette with 60,000 troops; engagements had taken place at Longeville; the Prussians were following the retiring French; the Emperor, on Tuesday, went to Rheims *via* Verdun.

On Monday afternoon the Empress Eugenie received a telegraphic message from the Emperor, of which the following is the substance, if not the exact wording:—"Everything is ready for a great battle, and our preparations are such that I can guarantee beforehand a victory, which will perhaps be decisive."

WAR ITEMS.

Further evidence is given of shocking mismanagement on the part of the French Commissariat at the seat of war. It is stated by Prince Achille Murat that the troops of Marshal MacMahon were without rations for twenty-four hours previous to the disastrous battle of Woerth, and other portions of the army have been in a still more unenviable position.

A rather dangerous demonstration took place on Saturday in Falmouth Harbour. Thirty German vessels were gathered there, and the crews made a public rejoicing on account of the Prussian victories. As there were only two French ships in the harbour at the time the proceedings were allowed to pass off without any serious disturbance, though had the enemy's force been stronger probably a collision would have taken place.

After the battle of Woerth M. Theirs said in the French Chambers that the Empire was henceforth out of the question. There could be no empire without an Emperor. The Republic must inevitably succeed the Imperial *régime*.

The *Volontaire* makes the following calculation:—At the last census France counted, men between 20 and 30, 3,760,000; from 30 to 40, 3,128,000. "And are we to be uneasy," adds M. Clement Duvernois, "on account of three or four battles lost? We should become the laughing-stock of Europe."

The boats from Dover and Folkestone are empty, while the packets from Calais and Boulogne are over-crowded.

It has been proposed to form an army of French Volunteers to hang on the flanks of the Prussians and harass them while in French territory.

Two car loads of German immigrants recently arrived in the province of Ontario, Canada. They were proceeding to the Western States of the American Union, when on hearing of the war between France and Prussia a number of them at once determined to return to the Fatherland.

It is stated that Luxemburg has requested of England, Prussia, and Russia additional guarantees of neutrality. Reply has been made that the neutrality is already sufficiently guaranteed.

As proof of the severity of the battle of Weissenburg, a French journal states that one of their standards changed hands twenty-seven times.

THE WOUNDED.—The society of the International Exhibtion of Lyons has placed at the disposal of the military authorities the buildings of the exhibition, as they now stand, to be converted into a hospital in which 1200 beds may be organised.

The Mayor of Ripon has arranged with the Cathedral dignitaries, the clergy of the city, and the ministers of all denominations, to have collections at their several places of worship on Sunday next, in aid of the fund for the relief of the sick and wounded in the war now raging on the continent of Europe; also that subcription lists be placed at the banks in the city to receive donations from parties unable to attend the services.

The Albini rifle, with which the Special Corps of the Civic Belgian Guard are to be armed, fires sixteen shots a minute, and is considered as good as the Chassepot.

The Pfeil, North German schooner, from Hartlepool, has been seized by French war steamers.

Baroness James de Rothschild has written to the minister of the Interior, announcing that she has prepared, at her own cost, on her property at Boulogne-sur-Seine, 20 beds for the accommodation of wounded French soldiers, and on her estate of Ferrière (Seine-et-Marne), 30 more.

General Sheridan, of the United States army, arrived at Hanover from London on the 12th, and proceeded to Berlin to witness the campaign at the Prussian head-quarters.

It was reported from Berlin on Friday that England has declined to join in the Austro-Italian League for the restoration of peace, proposed by Count Von Beust. The League was intended to protect both France and Germany from any loss of territory; but, in case of the defeat of Prussia, it would not have prevented the dissolution of the North German Confederation.

The Queen of Prussia is personally devoting special care to the French wounded. She has caused shirts and other small articles to be distributed among the French officers. Refreshments, cigars, &c., are distributed among the French prisoners, as well as among the Prussian troops passing through Berlin, by the Ladies' Committee. German ladies may be seen at the railway stations acting as secretaries to the prisoners desirous of writing home.

The *North German Gazette* of Saturday, remarking upon the news of the expulsion of German residents from France, says: "We do not believe that Germany will have any need to exercise her right of retaliation in this matter, or that a German Government will visit as a crime upon French subjects the fact of their having the misfortune to belong to a country which has a Napoleon III. seated on its throne. Frenchmen residing in Germany may tranquilise themselves; they will, like the rest of the world, become convinced that it is Germany that marches at the head of civilization."

GOSSIP.

Dr. Gerhardt, of Berlin, has published a history of the study of algebra in Germany.

The casts of the Bhooluneswar Temple in Orissa, sent to England, have cost £630.

Miss Laura Harris, the American *prima donna*, has been engaged for the San Carlos at Lisbon.

The first book of the Iliad has been translated into modern Greek verse by M. A. Khristopoulos.

M. Léon Vaillant has published some interesting observations on the marine animals of the Breton coast.

Dr. L. Fitzinger is publishing a critical revision of the genera of the bat tribe, of which the first part has appeared.

A Museum of Art and Science is in the course of erection at Barnard Castle, Durham, at the cost of Mr. and Mrs. Bowes.

The Rev. George Gilfillan is engaged on a new "Life of Sir Walter Scott." It will be published by Messrs. Oliphant, of Edinburgh.

On 21st of July a competitive examination was held in Sanskrit and Arabic for twenty-four scholarships in the Punjab University at Lahore.

A very able article, recently published in the *Edinburgh Review*, on "The Text of Chaucer," is said to be by Professor Baynes, of St. Andrews.

Mr. and Mrs. German Reed have terminated their season at the Gallery of Illustrations this week. They have renewed their lease of the Gallery.

Mr. Joseph Clarke and Mr. Roger T. Smith have been added to the Committee of Selection for Architecture at the International Exhibition of 1870.

On Wednesday evening Mrs. Scott-Siddons gave a dramatic reading at Exeter, for the benefit of Mr. F. Belton, formerly lessee of the Exeter Theatre.

Professor Jowett, after the publication of his edition of Plato, which may be expected shortly, proposes, we understand, to devote himself to a work of theology.

Herr Gustav Freytag is one of the four German writers who are allowed to accompany the Prussian armies, in order to chronicle the events of the present campaign.

A Volume of Essays, by Professor Seeley, collected from magazines, is to be published in the autumn, when Professor Seeley's lecture on Roman History will also appear.

The portrait of Charles Dickens, painted by Ary Scheffer in 1855, exhibited at the Royal Academy in 1856, has been purchased by the trustees of the National Portrait Gallery.

Mr. Ralph Waldo Emerson writes a prefatory essay to the new English version of Plutarch's "Moralia," edited by Professor Godwin, of Harvard College, to be published shortly.

An unpublished four act opera of Verdi's is (remarks the *Musical Standard*) to be brought forward at Cairo, the libretto entitled "Aïda" having been sketched by the Khedive himself.

An instructive and minute agricultural map of Holland has been drawn by Mr. Staring. The boundary lines of the several kinds of cultivation are made prominent, the political divisions faint.

The Grosvenor pictures, lent to the South Kensington Museum, are now disposed in a room near the Vernon Gallery; they comprise, amongst others, Gainsborough's "Blue Boy," and Reynolds's "Mrs. Siddons as the Tragic Muse."

The general result of a series of experiments made by Dr. E. Adamück, at Utrecht, on the nerve-action of the movements of the eyes, is the conclusion that the two eyes, in all that concerns their movements, are practically a single instrument.

Mr. G. E. Ewing, sculptor, has had the honour of a final sitting for a bust of the Prince of Teck, which, with busts of Prince Adolphus and Princess Victoria Mary, the children of the Prince and Princess of Teck, he has just completed.

The *Athenæum* announces that Mr. Francis Parkman, of Boston, U.S., is engaged in preparing a new edition of his "History of the Conspiracy of Pontiac, and the War of the North-American Tribes against the English Colonies after the Conquest of Canada." The work will be largely augmented, the author having availed himself of the Bouquet and Haldimand M.S., but recently accessible.

Signor Tamborini, the renowned baritone-basso, now upwards of seventy years of age, has met with grievous misfortunes. Having divided the greater part of his large fortune among his children, the portion he reserved to himself, which is left in the hands of his eldest son, has been lost in speculations on the Bourse and the son has committed suicide. He has, fortunately, an affectionate son-in-law in Signor Gardoni to provide for his old age.

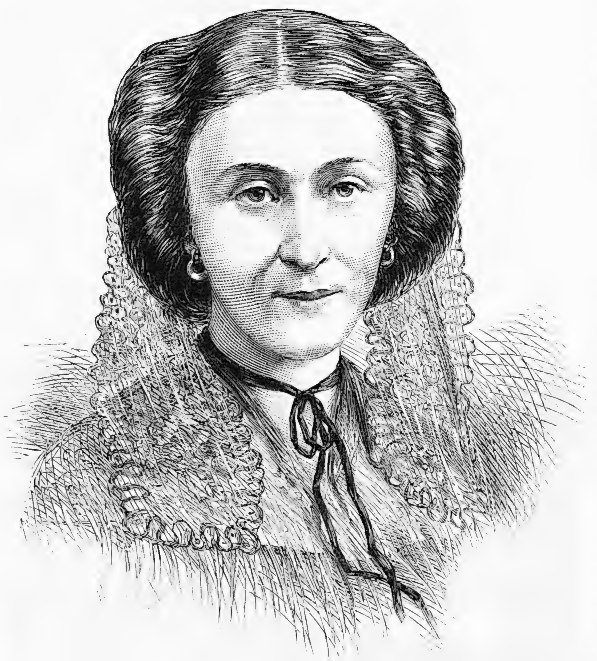
A terrific boiler explosion attended with sad loss of life happened on Saturday at Colville, near Leicester. The boiler which burst had only been fixed a short time previously at the brick works of Mr. Stableford, near the Midland Railway, and the engine and other sheds were entirely demolished. Three persons were killed on the spot, and six others were seriously injured, two of them so dangerously that it was not expected they could long survive.

"Every mother and housekeeper must often act as family physician in the numerous illnesses and accidents that occur among children and servants. For many of these cases I have used Perry Davis's Pain Killer, and consider it an indispensable article in the family medicine box."—*New York Examiner.*

ADELAIDE A. PROCTER.

We give, on this page, the portrait of Adelaide A. Procter, the poetess, illustrative of an incident in the life of Charles Dickens, who thus speaks of her: "In the spring of the year 1853, I observed, as conductor of the weekly journal *Household Words*, a short poem among the proffered contributions, very different, as I thought, from the sheal of verses perpetually setting through the office of such a periodical, and possessing much more merit. Its authoress was quite unknown to me. She was one Miss Mary Berwick, whom I had never heard of, and she was to be addressed by letter, if addressed at all, at a circulating library in the western district of London. Through this channel Miss Berwick was informed that her poem was accepted, and was invited to send another. She complied, and became a regular and frequent contributor. Many letters passed between the journal and Miss Berwick, but Miss Berwick herself was never seen. . . . This went on until December, 1854, when going to dine that day with an old and dear friend, distinguished in literature as Barry Cornwall, I took with me an early proof of the Christmas Number, and remarked, as I laid it on the drawing-room table, that it contained a very pretty poem, written by a certain Miss Berwick. Next day brought me the disclosure that I had so spoken of the poem to the mother of its writer, in its writer's presence." This was Adelaide A. Procter. She was born in Bedford-square, London, and was the daughter of that veteran poet Bryan W. Procter, better known as Barry Cornwall. Miss Procter, after a lingering illness, died on the 2nd of February, 1864, and in 1866 her verses were collected into a handsome quarto volume, with a preface by Charles Dickens, wherein was related the story we have quoted.

The early poems written by Miss Procter first appeared in periodicals. They were collected into a volume and published in 1858. The book was a great success and ran through seven or eight editions. She was warmly hailed by the critics, who with one accord pronoucced her a great poetess. "If the author," wrote one well-known reviewer, after dwelling upon the general excellence of the poems in the first volumes of "Legends and Lyrics," "devotes herself to the career on which she has entered, she may probably attain a high reputation; and even at present there is only one living poetesss with whom she ought to fear competition." "Adelaide Procter," remarks another writer, "owed little or nothing to the style of foregoing or contemporary poet or poetess — nothing to a Baillie, a Hemans, a Browning — nothing to Tennyson and his scholars."

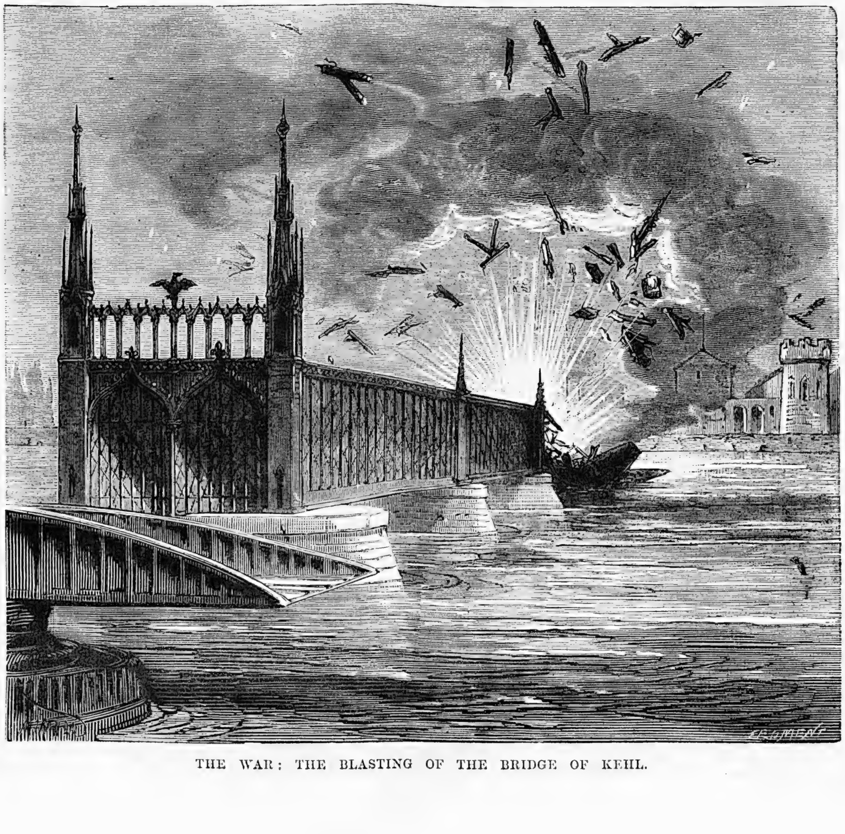


ADELAIDE A. PROCTER.

Midland Railway Company.—The half-yearly meeting was held at the Derby Station, on Tuesday. There was a numerous attendance of shareholders. Mr. W. P. Price, chairman of the Board of Directors, presided. Mr. Williams, secretary, having read the advertisement convening the meeting, the report, of which the following is an abstract, was taken as read:—The directors report that the traffic for the half-year, as compared with the corresponding half-year of 1869, shows the large increase of £179,832. The balance available for dividend is £675,729 3s. 9d., of which the sum of £14,181 10s. 5d. is brought from the account of the previous half-year; and the directors recommend the declaration of a dividend of £3 2s. 6d. upon each £100 Consolidated Stock, a proportionate dividend on the open stocks, and the usual dividend on the preference stocks, leaving a balance of £6,653 3s. 6d. to be carried to the account of the current half-year. The dividends are upon the open stocks, ½ per centum per annum more than those declared for the corresponding period of 1869. The increased charge upon revenue on dividend and interest account as compared with the corresponding period of 1869, amounts to £44,000, and the conversion of £1,733,038 of the £18 five per cent. preference shares into ordinary stock of the company, taking the ordinary dividend for the entire half-year, has also imposed an additional charge upon a similar comparison, to the extent of £10,800. The amount of capital expended on lines and works as yet unproductive of revenue was, on the 30th June last, over £1,086,000. It was reported that satisfactory progress was being made upon the Mansfield and Worksop and Staveley Branches, the Yate and Thornbury Line, and also upon the Joint Lines of the Ashby and Nuneaton, and the Liverpool and Manchester Section of the Cheshire Lines. The works upon the Mansfield and Southwell Lines were making very satisfactory progress, and would probably be opened before the close of the year. At the conclusion of the meeting, the Chairman said he wished to call attention to the increase in their fine arts gallery, by the addition of a full-length portrait of their late chairman (Mr. W. E. Hutchinson), which was part of a testimonial that the Midland Company would shortly present to that gentleman. It had been painted by Mr. Lucas, of St. John's Wood-road, London, the same artist who had painted the portraits of the late Mr. Ellis and Mr. Beale. The portrait had given great satisfaction to the shareholders, the directors, and the personal friends of Mr. Hutchinson, and he hoped those present would be of opinion that the artist had been faithful to the duty entrusted to him.

THE BLASTING OF THE BRIDGE AT KEHL.

The beautiful railway bridge thrown across the Rhine from the Baden side of the stream at Kehl to the French side near Strasburg, was erected in 1861. It is an iron lattice bridge, of five spans, resting upon four piers. The Baden end was blown to pieces by the Badenese, as an act of military strategy, almost immediately after the declaration of war, to cut off railway communication between France and Germany. That all easy means of crossing a frontier should be removed in time of war is, except under peculiar circumstances, regarded as equally desirable on both sides; for it is better for either party to improvise a means of communication when the time for invading the enemy's country arrives, than to be constantly liable to be taken by surprise by the forces of the foe. To destroy the bridges at Kehl was therefore a work engaged in very heartily by both parties. The French not only helped to render the blasting of the Kehl railway bridge the more effectual, but they demolished the bridge of boats near by, which connected the Strasburg bank with a small island, held by the French in the Rhine stream, there being a continuation of the pontoon bridge from the island to the Kehl side, which was also put an end to in the interest of war. Of the destruction of the bridge of boats we gave a sketch last week, to which the engraving on this page, representing the railway bridge at the moment when the Baden end was being blown into the air, may be taken as a companion picture. The portion of the bridge represented in the foreground shows how a part of the roadway was made to swing upon its piers to accommodate the Rhine traffic. The two towns which were, before the war, practically linked together by this line of railway, were formerly both strong fortresses, and they have seen in their time many terrible spectacles of warfare. Strasburg, still strongly fortified, has already been made to play an important part in the struggle now going on. Kehl was, years ago, a very strong fortress of the German Empire, and one of its chief bulwarks against the inroads of France. It has been bombarded and razed to the ground nearly a score of times, and at present it is in a dismantled state. The two countries are brought so nearly face to face at this point of the Rhine that some little jealousy exists, even in times of peace; and it has been the custom, quite up to the moment of the outbreak of hostilities, for the gates at the end of Kehl bridge to be closed every night shortly after sunset.



THE WAR: THE BLASTING OF THE BRIDGE OF KEHL.

The French Government have expelled from France the subjects of Prussia and her allies.

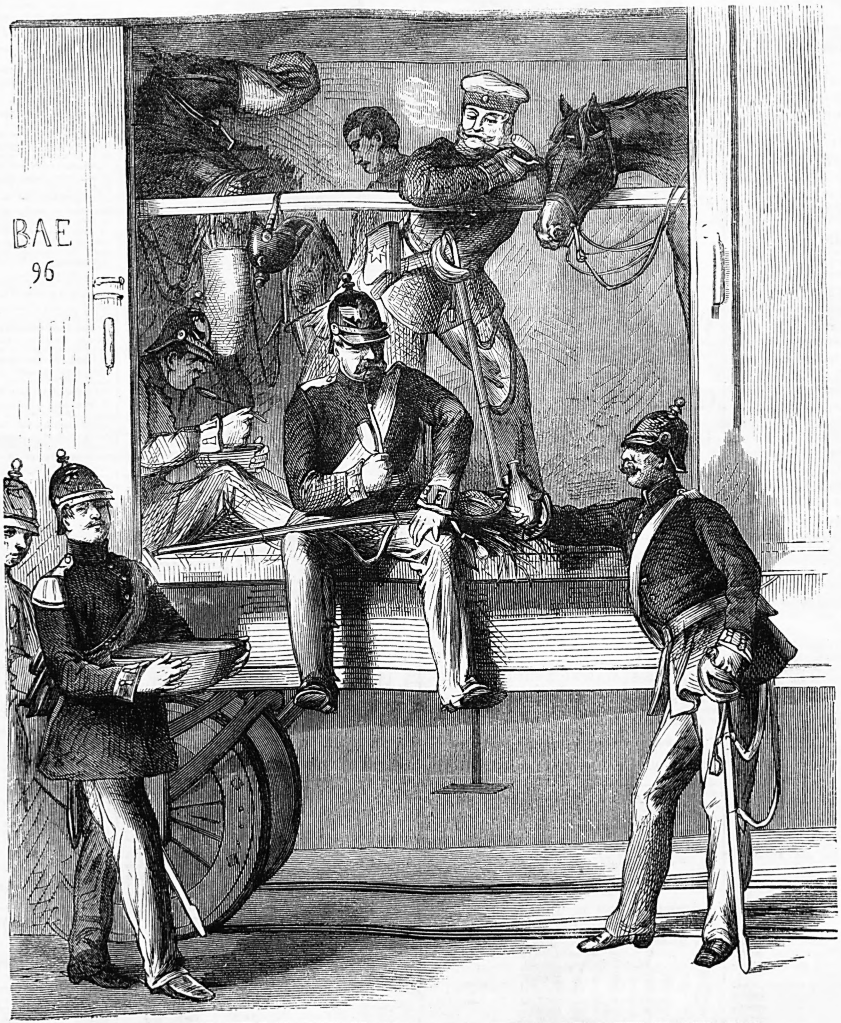
Nature remarks that the fearful destructiveness of so-called "natural" causes of death, as compared with even the most sanguinary battles, is shown by the fact that during the siege of Sebastopol the French army lost 20,240 men by death in the field or as the result of their wounds: 75,000 from epidemic and other diseases. During the Italian campaign of two months the French losses were 3,664 killed or mortally wounded: 5,000 from disease.

THE CROWN PRINCE OF PRUSSIA.

Frederick William, Crown Prince of Prussia, is, so far, the hero of the War of 1870. Of his deeds the *Daily Telegraph*, in a leading article this week, says:—"Although he arrived a little late at Sadowa, he was, nevertheless just in time. And in this wonderful present campaign it is Fritz whose sword, like the wand of a conjuror, has made the prestige of Napoleon vanish. At Weissenburg he leaped upon his enemy like a Black Forest bear: at Wörth he came, he saw, he smote the flower of the French army, and, backed by his big and countless Germans, he has certainly won the first garlands of the war." To the fortunes of battle we owe a vivid description of the Prince, written after a personal interview since the great fight at Woerth. One M. Henri Chabrillart, war correspondent of the Paris *Figaro*, was taken prisoner after the defeat of MacMahon's forces, and, in company with a fellow-prisoner, M. Cardon, correspondent of the *Gaulois*, he was taken before Prince Frederick William at Souly. Here is an account of the interview:—"I confess I am very much embarrassed. If I draw a flattering portrait of the Prince it will be said that I am sold to the Prussians; if I draw an unfavourable picture of him to gratify any malvolent passion, I shall be guilty of injustice and falsehood. I am a reporter, which means a kind of photographer. I shall therefore simply and truly state what I saw and what was said. Those who may be dissatisfied with my account must deal with the Prince themselves. It is not my fault that he is human. Would to Heaven that all Germans were like him; but, unfortunately, it is not so. Prince Frederick William, heir to the Crown of Prussia, is a man of tall stature, thin, with a calm and placid countenance, but in the curve of his aquiline nose and his dilating nostrils there are evidences of energy, while the rapidity of his glance convinces you of his decision. A full fair beard softens the somewhat stern expression of his features. He has great simplicity of manner, and affects rather a *bourgeois* style of speaking, thinking, and general behaviour. He was dressed in a black tunic with red collar and facings, without ny embroidery or gold braid; upon the shoulder a small epaulet to indicate his rank, but no other distinguishing ornament. He wore a small black cap bordered with red, and the whole uniform was severely simple. He speaks French with great purity, without foreign accent beyond a slight German intonation and occasional hesitation at certain words. 'Do you speak German, Sir?' said he to me. 'No Prince, not sufficiently.' 'I am sorry for it, as otherwise you would have heard in what manner our troops speak of yours, and in what esteem they hold them.' 'I thank you very much for that opinion.' 'O, it is quite deserved. We have all admired the tenacity and the courage which have been evinced by even the humblest of your soldiers.' Then, with much delicate consideration, and almost making excuses for mentioning the fact to us, he told us that they had taken between 3,000 and 4,000 prisoners, 30 guns, six mitrailleuses, and two eagles. 'Among the prisoners,' said he 'is General Raoult. I went this morning to see him at Reichshoffen, where he lies wounded, his hip and thigh being broken; I fear that he is now dying. He is a brave officer, and he has given me some addresses in Paris to which he wishes letters to be sent.' 'But Prince,' I observed, 'the other prisoners also have families.' 'I have thought of that. I have had them supplied with writing materials; the letters will be sent unsealed to our consul at Geneva, who will forward them to France.' 'Prince, we thank you on behalf of the mothers whose grief you are about to assuage.' 'I do not like war, gentlemen,' he said, 'If I should reign I would never make it. Now, despite my love of peace, this is the third campaign I have been compelled to make. I went over the battle field yesterday. It was frightful. If it only depended upon myself this war would end here. It is your Ministers and the Emperor who would have it, it is not we who wanted it. And yet the Emperor has been very good to me and very kind to my wife. The last time that I saw him was at the Tuileries on the 12th of January, when he said to me, 'You know that I have found a new Minister.' That was this M. Ollivier, who now makes this war against us.' 'It is terrible, indeed,' I said; 'and I think your artillery is very formidable.' 'No, Sir, it is not superior to yours,' the Prince replied, 'but we make different use of it from what you do, placing it more freely with the advanced posts. Your aim is very good—too good, indeed; for we have lost, I think, more than you have. I have regiments which have lost twenty-nine or thirty officers. But we have taken prisoners, and that restores our advantage.' 'An enormous advantage, for you know well what you had before you yesterday.' 'Nearly 40,000 men, the Corps of Marshal MacMahon, and a division of the 7th Corps. I did not intend to attack, wishing only to make a reconnaisance in force, but one is not always able to put an end to a fight when once it has begun. It was fortunate for us on the whole, as he would doubtless have received reinforcements, and we should have had still harder work next day.' 'Prince, it seems to me that you are so very well informed concerning our army.' 'One must be so,' said he smiling. 'But, said I,' wilfully committing an error, 'it was your entire army which was engaged, 250,000 men at least.' 'Not so many—180,000 men. They all fought well, but if the Bavarians had marched as well as our men we should have had it all over by noon, instead of fighting until after six o'clock. I should not give battle to your army unless I was superior in number—otherwise I would prefer to retire.' 'You have one great advantage, Prince, in the precision of your troops. From the tower of Woerth we admired, though with the grief caused by witnessing your success, the two flanking movements which you effected upon our position.' 'The hills of Freischweller are real fortifications, and I did not care to attack them directly. By turning them I lost fewer men.' 'We are very much obliged, Prince, for the few minutes you have been pleased to devote to us, but we do not see with you the Duke of Coburg, whom we desire to thank, for it was he who saved us yesterday, and, notwithstanding his many anxieties, he has not forgotten the promise which he made to speak to you about us.' 'I will perform your commission.' 'We now ask that we may be taken back to the advanced posts.' 'I see no objection;' and then, having courteously saluted us, he withdrew." No biography which we could compile would, perhaps, convey so truthful an impression of the bearing and character of the heir to the throne of Prussia as that sketch by a French journalist. Prince Frederick William, only son of the King of Prussia, was born Oct. 18, 1831, and on the 25th of January, 1858, he married Victoria Adelaide, the Princess Royal of Great Britain. There are many persons, intimately acquainted with the character and principles of his Royal Highness, and familiar with the aspects and prospects of Prussian politics, who think that the death of William I, who is in his 74th year, will see the end of the régime of the Count Von Bismarck, and the revival of constitutional progress and a peace policy in the kingdom. The Prince's portrait appears on page 116.

PRUSSIAN ARTILLERY EN ROUTE FOR THE RHINE.

They are very fine men whom our artist has sketched in the act of taking a brief rest on the road. The picture represents the horse-box of the artillery and transport waggon, and the artillerymen taking refreshment at their ease, while the horses are watered and fed. There is a fine Teuton expression in the faces of these men, and in their bearing a suggestion of rare strength and endurance. The regiments of the enemy must be well manned to meet these artillerymen on equal terms with any chance of coping with them successfully. War has become now very much a question of artillery, but there must be men to defend the guns, and if we may judge from this picture, and others of a similar description, Prussia has placed her heavy ordnance in very competent hands.



THE WAR: THE MID-DAY REST OF PRUSSIAN ARTILLERY *EN ROUTE* TO THE WAR.

THE COMING FIRST OF SEPTEMBER.—Our sporting and other contemporaries report very favourably of the prospects of the partridge season. The *Derby Mercury* declares that the promise of sport in that locality is of a most cheering character, and we have similar assurances from the districts all round. Long before the last season closed partridges became very wild and difficult to approach, and, consequently, more than the usual quota were left to breed from. Nests were numerous this year, and well filled with eggs, and beyond the ordinary depredations of vermin, and inevitable accidents, the process of incubation went on well. Large broods were hatched, and generally they escaped the perils common to young birds, save an interval now and again of unpropitious weather. Some of the wet cold days in June played havoc amongst the young coveys that had left the nest only a day or two previously, and there are well ascertained instances of the birds being reduced in number nearly one-half. Hence, when the do and gun are called into requisition, the majority of broods will be found large, and more than the usual average small, and containing only seven or eight birds each. Generally, the young partridges are well grown and strong, and can scarcely be distinguished from the old ones, though on wandering over the land keepers assert that coveys are not unfreqnently flushed which are still very small, and have evidently not been long on the wing. The late hatchings, however, are not to be despised, for with the present dry hot weather and abundance of food they will thrive quickly and afford capital sport when the autumn is somewhat advanced. On the whole, there can be no doubt, if a concurrence of reports can be relied upon, that a large stock of partridges has been reared this year, and as a luxuriant crop of turnips will offer plenty of cover, and the corn will be nearly all cut and much of it garnered before the 1st of September, there will be nothing to prevent sportsmen from taking the field on the first day, and commencing what many are led to anticipate will prove an excellent season.

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Admission, Twopence each.

The ASSEMBLY ROOM will be OPEN for DANCING MONDAY and SATURDAY, from 8 till 10.30. Admission, Sixpence each.

THE GRAND MUSICAL PROMENADE, ON EVERY FRIDAY,

FROM FIVE TILL NINE.

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Fare for Return Journey and Admission to the Gardens and Park. } NINEPENCE.

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Special Terms for Railway Fare, &c., may be known on application at the Railway Stations, or to

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DANCING every MONDAY and SATURDAY Evening, commencing at Six o'clock. [788

BIRMINGHAM TRIENNIAL MUSICAL FESTIVAL

in aid of the Funds of the General Hospital (30th Celebration), on the 30th and 31st of August and 1st and 2nd of September, 1870.

PRESIDENT—The Right Hon. the Earl of BRADFORD.

Principal Vocalists—Mademoiselle Titiens, Madame Lemmens-Sherrington, Miss Edith Wynne and Mademoiselle Ilma di Murska, Madame Patey and Mademoiselle Drasdil. Mr. Sims Reeves, Mr. Vernon Rigby, and Mr. W. H. Cummings, Mr. Santley and Signor Foli.

Solo Pianoforte, Madame Arabella Goddard. Solo Violin, M. Sainton. Organist, Mr. Stimpson.

Conductor, Sir Michael Costa.

OUTLINE OF THE PERFORMANCES.

TUESDAY MORNING.—Elijah, Mendelssohn.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.—Naaman, Costa.

THURSDAY MORNING.—Messiah, Handel.

FRIDAY MORNING.—St. Peter (a new Oratorio), Benedict (composed expressly for the Festival); Requiem, Mozart.

TUESDAY EVENING.—A Miscellaneous Concert, comprising Cantata (*Paradise and the Peri*), J. F. Barnett (composed expressly for the Festival); Miscellaneous Selection, comprising Mendelssohn's Concerto in G Minor, and Overtures Freischutz and Zampa.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.—A Miscellaneous Concert, comprising Instrumental Work, A. S. Sullivan (composed expressly for the Festival; Choral Ode (ditto), Dr. Stewart. Second Part will consist entirely of selections from the works of Beethoven.

THURSDAY EVENING.—A Miscellaneous Concert, comprising Cantata (*Naia and Damayanti*) Dr. F. Hillier (composed expressly for the Festival); Miscellaneous Selection, including Kreutzer Sonata and Overture Guillaume Tell.

FRIDAY EVENING.—Samson, Handel.

Programmes of the Performances will be forwarded by post on application to the undersigned, at the Offices of the Festival Committee, Ann Street, Birmingham, on and after the 28th inst.

By order.

HOWARD S. SMITH,

773] *Secretary to the Festival Committee.*

SUFFIELD'S DINING ROOMS,

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LUNCHEON BAR,

UNION PASSAGE, BIRMINGHAM.

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DR. RAYNER'S HYDROPATHIC ESTABLISHMENT,

(formerly Dr. Wilson's). This complete Establishment, beautifully placed on the slope of the Malvern Hills, has recently undergone entire renovation, and has accommodation for 70 inmates.—For prospectus apply to T. Rayner, M.D., Malvern.

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The best remedy for acidity of the stomach, heart-burn, headache, gout, and indigestion, and the best mild aperient for delicate constitutions, especially adapted for ladies, children, and infants.

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THE ISLE OF MAN,

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AVERAGE SEA PASSAGE—3½ HOURS.

Until the end of September TOURIST TICKETS will be issued to DOUGLAS, by the route through the Picturesque Districts of Craven and Furness, *via* Leeds, Carnforth, Furness Abbey, and Barrow, from

Birmingham	Burton	Northampton
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and other Stations on the Midland Railway.

Passengers are allowed to break the journey at Furness Abbey, on condition that they resume it within three days.

1870. BY ORDER.

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NOTICE.

IN consequence of a contemplated Dissolution Of Partnership,

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Beg to invite the Nobility and Gentry of the Midland Counties, also their Friends and the Trade to INSPECT their STOCK, which they are now offering at a liberal Discount for Cash.

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HIGH CLASS GENEVA WATCHES.

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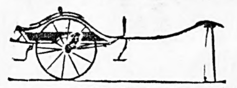

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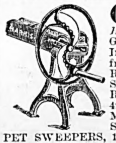

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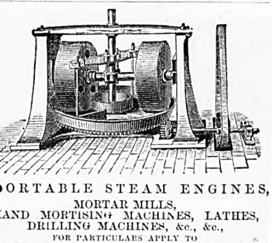

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Parsons, C. T.	5	0	0
Hinks, James and Son	2	2	0
Phillip, C. J.	2	2	0
Watts and Manton	2	2	0
Hill, Joseph	1	1	0
Pearce, William	1	1	0

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BIRMINGHAM CANAL NAVIGATION.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that a GENERAL ASSEMBLY or MEETING of the COMPANY of PROPRIETORS of the Birmingham Canal Navigations will be held at the Company's Offices, in Paradise Street, Birmingham, on FRIDAY, the 26th day of August, 1870, at Twelve o'clock at noon precisely, for the transaction of the General Business of the Company. And *Notice is hereby also given*, that so soon as such general business is disposed of or adjourned, a SPECIAL ASSEMBLY, or Extraordinary Meeting of the Company, will be held at the same place, at which resolutions will be submitted, and, if approved, adopted, in the words, or to the effect, of the following:—

Resolved,—

That in pursuance of the powers contained in "The Birmingham Canal Navigations Act, 1870," or any other Act or Acts enabling the Company in this behalf, and subject to the provisions of such Act or Acts, the 23,801 Shares, and the 6-8ths of a Share, and all other, if any, the Shares now existing in the capital of the Company, shall on the 1st day of January, 1871, be converted and consolidated into a General Capital Stock, to be designated "The Consolidated Stock of the Birmingham Canal Navigations," and that such Stock shall thereupon be registered in the names of the several Companies and Persons who on that day shall be the Proprietors of those Shares and parts of Shares respectively, in the proportion of £100 for every Share, but each £100 of Stock registered in respect of a Share that immediately previously to the consolidation was burthened with any sum as allocated debt and interest, or allocated debt only, shall be registered subject to a charge in favour of the Company of a like amount of debt and interest, or debt, as the case may be, and of the interest that may thereafter become due in respect of that debt; and no transfer of any portion of that £100 of Stock, or any document affecting the ownership thereof, shall be registered by the Clerk of the Company until the amount of that charge shall be duly paid to the Company.

Resolved,—

That in accordance with and subject to the provisions contained in "The Birmingham Canal Navigation Act, 1870," or any other Act or Acts enabling the Company in this behalf, the Committee be, and they are hereby authorised and empowered from time to time to raise all or any part of the money which, for the time being, the Company have raised or are authorised to raise on mortgage or bond, by the creation and issue, at such times, in such amounts and manner, on such terms, subject to such conditions, and with such rights and privileges as the Committee may from time to time think fit, of stock to be called "Debenture Stock," instead of and to the same amount as the whole or any part of the money which may for the time being be owing by the Company on Mortgage or Bond, or which they may from time to time have power to raise on Mortgage or Bond, and that there be attached to the stock hereby authorised to be created, a fixed and perpetual preferential interest, not exceeding the rate of £4 per centum per annum payable half-yearly.

Dated this 9th day of August, 1870.

ROBERT THOMAS, Clerk to the Company.

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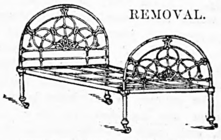

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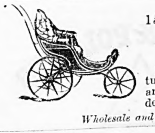

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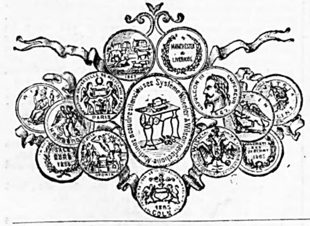

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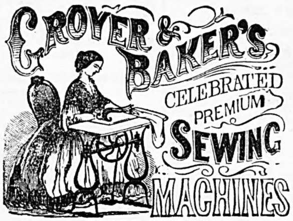

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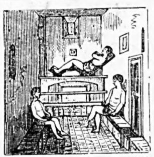

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